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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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ACP-EEC Joint Assembly Opens in Gaborone 29 Mar

MB3003194093 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1910 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The co-president of the European Economic Community [EEC] Mrs. Cassanmagnago Ceretti [title as heard], has assured Botswana of the support of the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific]-EEC joint assembly in the effort for cooperation and peaceful coexistence in the region.

She was speaking at the official opening of the ACP-EEC joint assembly at the (Wikhuso) conference center this morning. She said Botswana, since independence, has epitomized the search for cooperation as evidenced by her role in the founding of the Southern African Development Community [SADC] some 13 years ago. Mrs. Ceretti said SADC, which was transformed following [word indistinct] conference on economic community, has adopted a more ambitious path now that South Africa had abandoned its destabilization of neighbors and apartheid system.

She called on the joint assembly to demonstrate its support for democratic negotiations in South Africa, as well as for the legitimate government in Angola. She also said she called for the condemnation of the activities of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] opposition movement in Angola for seeking to obtain by war what it failed to achieve at the ballot box. Mrs. Ceretti cautioned the international community not to give in to UNITA's military blackmail because if it did, it would jeopardize the whole peace process which has now begun in Mozambique and many other countries in Africa.

Angolan Delegate Addresses Session

MB3103184393 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1610 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] An Angolan delegate at the ongoing ACP-EEC Joint Assembly in Gaborone, Mr. do Nascimento, says the Angolan crisis cannot be resolved militarily. Addressing the plenary session of the joint assembly this morning, Mr. Nascimento said only dialogue can lead to peaceful resolution of the conflict.

He told the assembly that the civil war that resumed after UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rejected last year's general election has caused more damage to the country than the last 16 years of the war. He said hundreds of thousands of people have died, some are displaced and thousands of children orphaned.

Mr. do Nascimento told the conference that as most countries move toward democracy, they should watch out for problems like the ones experienced by Angola now. He said in cases where there are conflicting armed factions, losers may not want to accept the result and opt for war. He expressed fears that the same situation may prevail in Mozambique and South Africa after those

countries hold general elections. He called on the international community to put pressure on UNITA to agree to a cease-fire. He also said pressure should be put on South Africa and Zaire, whom he said are assisting UNITA in its war against the Angolan elected government, to stop doing so.

Mr. do Nascimento thanked the government and people of Botswana for their hospitality. He said there have always been close ties between the two countries and that many Angolans had come to Botswana to rebuild their lives.

U.S. Urged To Recognize Government

MB0104093393 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Angolan crisis is at the center of discussions of the African, Caribbean and Pacific-EEC Joint Assembly currently being held in Gaborone. Lopo do Nascimento, head of the National Assembly delegation invited to take part in the proceedings, was scheduled to address the session this afternoon.

The Joint Assembly has spoken in favor of emergency humanitarian aid for Angolan war victims. The assembly, which has described the needs of the victims as vital, called for sanctions against any country that assists the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] to wage war. The Gaborone meeting specifically accused South Africa and Zaire of supporting Jonas Savimbi's movement and his scorched earth policy. The Joint Assembly requested the Clinton administration to recognize the elected Government of Angola within the next 30 days.

Political observers believe that the position adopted by the Joint Assembly constitutes moral support for the martyred people of Angola. The meeting's agenda included a debate for this afternoon, regarding the political and military situation in Angola where the war launched by UNITA has caused thousands of deaths and hundreds of thousands of refugees.

ANC's Manuel Reports on S. Africa

MB0204102793 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1910 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The head of the Economic Department of the African National Congress [ANC], Mr. Trevor Manuel, says democracy in South Africa cannot succeed if that country can be a destabilizing factor in the SADC [Southern African Development Community].

He was addressing the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific]-European Economic Community joint assembly on future relations between ACP countries and South Africa at the Pitso conference center today. Mr. Manuel said the ANC wants to see a transitional executive council in place by June to oversee the multiparty negotiation process, security matters, government finance, and foreign affairs.

He said there's need for substantial economic reconstruction to improve the quality of life of South Africans. He dismissed the perception that South Africa is a rich country, saying the South Africa of the majority is underdeveloped.

For his part, the deputy minister of industry and commerce in Zimbabwe, Mr. Simon Moyo, said that South Africa's process to democracy should be supported and enhanced. He said without political stability in the SADC region, there cannot be economic progress. He said SADC stands for the promotion of economies and equality of people. He said South Africa should not remain a spectator to the course.

Zimbabwe, Sudan Delegates Address Meeting

MB0104143293 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1910 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Zimbabwean delegation to the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific]-EEC Joint Assembly in Gaborone has called for international pressure to force the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] Leader, Mr. Jonas Savimbi, to accept the outcome of the last September multiparty elections so that Angola could return to normality.

Contributing to the debate on the implementation of the Lome Convention in the ACP countries of southern Africa, the Zimbabwe deputy minister of industry and commerce, Mr. Simon Moyo, said those who clamor for democracy must abide by the will of the majority, particularly after a democratic electoral process. He said Angola should not be allowed to bleed anymore, and urged the assembly to come up with a clear and unequivocal position regarding the country.

Mr. Moyo expressed the hope that the peace process in Mozambique will be a success, adding that constitutional negotiations with South Africa were encouraging. With regard to the Lome Convention he said Zimbabwe has benefited immensely in agricultural and rural development projects financed through the convention. He said the EEC has given his country financial and technical cooperation for the promotion of Zimbabwe's exports.

During the debate a Sudanese delegate, Mr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, who is also minister of justice and Sudanese attorney general, said his country was being punished by the international community because it believes in Islam. He said the decision by the European Community to suspend aid to Sudan under the Lome Convention was taken based on allegations of human rights abuse in Sudan without any effort to prove them. He dismissed a United Nations report that purported acts of human rights abuse in his country and asked the assembly to send a mission to Sudan to investigate the issue.

However a European delegate, a French MP, Mr. (Henry Savvy), said going to Sudan would be futile because observers from the international community have never been able to move freely once in that country. He said the EC would not be prepared to sponsor such a mission, adding that they have been sending delegations to Sudan for the past six years without any success. However, other delegates felt that if Sudan is excluded from the convention it will be millions of Sudanese who will suffer. They felt that Sudan should be given a clear message that the international community is no longer willing to give aid where there is violation of human rights.

On Somalia delegates called for the establishment of refugee camps for those Somalis in need. They called on the assembly to ensure that aid to Somalia is coordinated and controlled to ensure that it does not fall in the wrong hands.

Cameroon

Police Arrest Oppositionists To 'Discourage' Rallies

AB0104195193 Paris AFP in English 1740 GMT
1 Apr 93

[Text] Yaounde, April 1 (AFP) - The leader of Cameroon's radical opposition party, Victorin Hameni Bieleu, and dozens of others were arrested Wednesday [31 March] evening at the party's headquarters, several sources said Thursday.

The sources said police burst into the headquarters of the Union of Democratic Forces in Cameroon (UDFC) by forcing the building's gate and doors and left with Bieleu and others who were attending a party meeting.

Bieleu's wife, Hameni Bieleu, said Thursday in a telephone interview that she had been to all of the police stations in Yaounde in search of her husband and had been told by police that they had no idea of his whereabouts.

The party headquarters on Thursday showed signs of a break-in with overturned furniture and broken doors. Several party members interviewed at the site said documents and typewriters were also taken.

They said they suspect Bieleu was arrested to discourage demonstrations held every Thursday by the radical Alliance for Cameroon's Recovery (ARC-CNS) which groups several opposition parties including the UDFC.

A heavy security force was deployed throughout the capital Thursday but by midday no demonstrations had been reported.

Zaire

'Ethnic Disturbances' Kill 8 in Shaba Mining Area

AB0104162993 Paris AFP in French 1511 GMT
1 Apr 93

[Text] Brussels, 1 Apr (AFP)—At least eight persons have died in disturbances over the past two days in the Shaba area (extreme southeast of Zaire). Meanwhile, thousands of refugees have been fleeing to the mining town of Kolwezi and gathering at the train station, it was learned today from humanitarian sources here.

According to Doctors Without Borders [MSF]-Belgium, an MSF team, which was in Likasi—20 km from Kolwezi—went to this town to treat injured persons. The

team of three people, including a doctor, launched a measles vaccination campaign, due to the risk of epidemic.

The reasons for the Kolwezi incidents are not known. Ethnic disturbances have taken place these past few months in Shaba (ex-Katanga). They could be linked to news of layoffs in this copper mining area. The Zairian mining company, General Quarries and Mines Company [GECAMINES], yesterday denied here that it was planning to lay off 18,000 workers. It also denied that it would need \$5 billion dollars in order to survive and that it was on the point of being privatized. GECAMINES stated that it "guarantees the continuation of its activities" and that it "is doing everything to revamp its production."

National Assembly Ends Extraordinary Session

AB0204121493 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800
GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The extraordinary session of the National Assembly ended this afternoon at 1600. According to National Assembly speaker (Ansroni Bembe), the Parliament has accomplished its mission of providing the country with a law on the organization of the transition, a bill that was submitted to the Assembly by the political conclave which met recently under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic. The extraordinary session was also aimed at validating the mandate of new parliamentarians who, in the past, were substitute members. Only two had their mandate validated. Ete Ndabasenda Ndjaka Ndjaka has the details:

[Ndjaka] Indeed, according to Speaker (Ansroni Bembe), the law on the organization of the transition is a realistic framework adopted to the management of power during the 12 months of the transition, which will take effect from the date of the law's promulgation. [passage omitted]

In his closing remarks, the speaker of the National Assembly emphasized the perfect spirit of serenity, dialogue, and concord that prevailed during the three days of deliberations. He said it was the same spirit that prevailed during the political conclave. He called on everyone to unite so as to ensure national reconciliation, sine qua non for the realization of our happiness. [passage omitted]

Tomorrow's session of the Parliament may be an interlude because it will probably witness the presentation of the Birindwa cabinet. Rumors, even in the Parliament, are circulating that the Cabinet might be named before the end of this weekend, as the announcement of this cabinet is only a matter of hours away.

Ethiopia

Meles on Somalia, Eritrea, Economic Issues

EA0104210093 Addis Ababa Voice of Ethiopia Network
in Amharic 1740 GMT 30 Mar 93

["Second and final part" of interview with President Meles Zenawi by unidentified local reporters in Addis Ababa on 29 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] The All-Amhara People's Organization was condemned by the media for declaring war. It is being said that if the organization declared war, it should be taken to court rather than have the government use the same tactics as the Dergue of exposing and ridiculing it through the media. This was the view of the organization's supporters and other parties. What do you have to say on this?

[Meles] I think I referred to this matter earlier. There might be two sides to it: The first being its political implications and the second its legal implications. When an illegal act is perpetrated a court case must follow. The government is taking legal action in respect of all illegal acts the organization has allegedly committed, but as the issue is not just legal, but also a political, it was correct to oppose it peacefully and politically. That is natural. Accordingly, we must examine the act in two ways: Legally there is the court process and politically there is the social implication as a peaceful demonstration. This is a method we should get used to because it is here to stay. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The constitutional drafting commission was expected to work in the open, but some are saying that it seems to be receiving documents drafted behind the scenes. As his excellency, the president said earlier when opening the seminar for the commission, popular participation would be in order from the drafting stage until the constitution is adopted. What then, ought to be done to gain the confidence of the people?

[Meles] I do not believe the danger of doing things behind the scenes has arisen. What I regard as dangerous is the idea of thinking that when we talk of the people we are only thinking about the residents of Addis Ababa. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Let me return to issues already raised. Let me touch on Somali affairs. It is known that Ethiopia is playing a major role in saving the Somali people and bringing about peace. Meanwhile there are various tribal conflicts in Ethiopia, but instead of solving them, Ethiopia has gone a long way toward solving the problems of others in Somalia. As mentioned earlier, there is fighting in the east, in Bale and elsewhere. As the saying goes, you are sweeping someone else's house while your own is burning. When the northern Somalis were claiming to be observers of Somali affairs, General Farah Aidid adopted the stance of suspending the dialogue on forming a transitional government for as long as northern Somalia was excluded. How did you manage to

reconcile these factions and get them to come to terms? Nothing about this has come out of Africa hall.

[Meles] I want to stress now that no house of the Ethiopian people has been on fire while they were putting someone else's fire out. Some people's house might be on fire, but not the Ethiopian people. [passage omitted]

What must be clearly understood is why we need to involve ourselves in Somali affairs and solve the issue peacefully. There are two reasons, one short-term and the other long-term. The short-term reason is that so long as there is war in Somalia there can be no lasting peace and stability in Ethiopia. The border between Ethiopia and Somalia is open. Those on either side are the same people. Any fire lit there spreads into Ethiopia. As instability over there impinges on our peace, stability, and development we must do our best to find a peaceful solution. The issue of children starving to death is a humanitarian one, providing a reason for solving the problem. Thus, seeing the issue in relation to our interests provides the first reason.

The second reason lies within the context of political change in Ethiopia. The charter clearly stipulates the need to change our foreign policy, particularly in establishing strong relations with neighboring countries, of which there were never healthy relations between Ethiopia and Somalia. When Somalia is in a grave situation, the Ethiopian people and Government must demonstrate practically that they are not the enemies of the Somali people, thus to create a huge avenue towards establishing a lasting friendship between the two peoples. This is what is actually being done. What was unimaginable four or five years ago is now being implemented. The Somali people have clearly seen in practical terms that the Ethiopian people and Government are their reliable friends. This feeling is well entrenched in Somali society. The process will help to establish lasting friendship and brotherhood between the two peoples and countries. Hence, in the short and in the long term Somalia is relevant to Ethiopia's interests. We are human beings and we know from our own experience what starvation is. We cannot ignore such an issue when it manifests itself elsewhere, because it reminds us of what we faced. Accordingly, on humanitarian grounds, we cannot see a repeat performance of loss of life. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] My question is related to the earlier question on Eritrea. The Eritrean referendum will be held soon. What is the role of the Ethiopian Government in the referendum process? My other question is that we are only a few months away from the expiration of the transitional period: Will the time given for the transitional period suffice?

[Meles] Regarding the Eritrean referendum, the leading actors are the Eritrean people. Others are performing the role of observers to ascertain that the manner in which the Eritrean people will decide their destiny is free and

fair. That is the only role the Ethiopian Government will perform, the duty of ascertaining that the process is democratic and free. The UN and others will be doing the same duty.

We believe the transitional period will end within its time limit. According to the charter, the time limit for the transitional period is two or two and a half years. The charter mandates the Council to prolong the period by six months. We want to ensure that the time limit for the transitional period is not extended beyond what is stipulated in the charter. We strongly believe that the charter's provision can be adhered to. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Our country's civil servants are in a state of fear because heads of departments in some areas threaten them with the labor civil service laws, rating the employees on the basis of political affiliation and sacking those disagreeing with them and even arresting them. Don't you think this violates the supremacy of the law? There are other rumors in government development sectors and organizations, particularly in state-owned industries, saying the industries are producing at an average of 30 percent of their capacity, that the government might privatize these industries or close them down and declare the employees redundant, and thus the production incentive has declined due to these fears. Such fears were aroused by the steps recently taken towards the Ethiopian Building Construction Agency and the state farms. What is government thinking on such issues?

[Meles] As laid down in the economic policy on the privatization of state-owned industries, not all industries will be put up for sale. Some will be privatized and others will be retained. Among those to be privatized, some will be privatized immediately or very soon, while others will undergo the process more slowly. The privatization process may take up to 10 years. [passage omitted]

As for the civil service law I do not believe it provides for appointments on a political basis. On the one hand are the civil servants and on the other the political appointees. Any political organ will make political appointments it deems fit. The civil service will be governed by its rules and regulations. [passage omitted]

There must be two matters over which the members of the civil service should stand in no doubt. Those who plunder government property by virtue of their positions will be sacked. No one should doubt this. But those discharging their responsibilities correctly, regardless of their political stance, will continue working and will enjoy all the benefits and rights due to them. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] It is rumored that development efforts are being diverted to Tigray province. But I have discovered that nothing special is being done. The roads are still ruined. There are no visible new institutions established. What is your view on this?

[Meles] Society wants much to be done in a short period of time. The government is not in a position to carry out all these development activities because of manpower and financial constraints. Hence, it is not possible to satisfy all the needs and wishes of the people in Tigray, or any other area for that matter. The destruction was carried out not in one year, but over many years. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] My question concerns the Oromo Liberation Front [OLF] issue. It is said that there is a war between the forces of the transitional government and the OLF in Dembi Dolo and other provinces in western Welega and that forces are being mobilized from the Central Region to go to these areas. Can you tell us anything about this? The other question concerns the OLF prisoners of war who were at (Hurso) and Dedesa rehabilitation centers and who were released. However, the people who were said to have been freed are now said to be still at the centers. There are these complaints. Do you know anything about this? Thank you.

[Reporter] Those OLF prisoners that were released were disowned by Mr. (Degasa). What do you say about this?

[Reporter] In fact, what I heard was that these people were not armed OLF combatants but were peasants who were arrested because of their affiliation to the organization.

[Meles] Look, those prisoners who were in (Hurso) and Dedesa centers have been released, but there were some delays due to transport problems. However, that problem has been solved. But when we say that they have been released, it does not mean that all of them have been released. I think this was noted in the statement. There are some criminals who will appear in court. One question which was asked and which I did not answer concerned some members of the OLF executive body who were issued with passports and were travelling as they wished while their (?subordinates) were arrested. Certainly, this matter can look odd. If you do not see it in context, then it is unfair. When the fighting started the members of the executive body were here in Addis Ababa, it was they who gave the orders and we could have arrested them, but you cannot conduct a dialogue by arresting people. [passage omitted] If the prisoners are disowned, then it would be better to ask them personally. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] There is a rumor that some ministers are being sacked. For example, the minister of agriculture was recently sacked. My question is, then, why are such dismissals kept secret when their appointments were announced publicly?

[Meles] A dismissal is announced when a final decision has been made, after which it must be announced. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] When, earlier on, the general process of the transitional period was evaluated, no mention was made of the country's economy in that context. Over the past

18 months, the Transitional Council has issued many decrees. To what extent have those decrees been implemented in practice? Another question is: What is the Council's mandate for resolving disputes within political organizations, particularly disputes on representation, when some organizations send their representatives, or when they sack their representatives. For example, there used to be a problem with the Oromo Abo and it was settled by the Council. [passage indistinct]

[Meles] Over the past 18 months, the council has issued many economic decrees. Most of them were not to have been implemented very rapidly, but were long-term ones. However, all of them have started being implemented. Problems start when an organization says it has changed its representatives, while the latter say they are the organization's legal representatives. Some organizations have changed their representatives many times, but we had no problem, because the representatives affected accepted their substitution. But in the cases of some other organizations the representatives refused to accept the decision, saying that the body which changed them was not a legal body. Then the problem starts and it becomes a legal issue. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] My question is on Eritrea. I have three questions. Here is the first: Some time ago I heard some Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] leaders saying that the referendum in Eritrea was just a transition from one dictatorial regime to another. The organization has sent two letters in this context to the UN and the countries belonging to the organization calling for the formation of a transitional government in Eritrea and then proceeding towards a referendum. What was the Ethiopian Government's reaction to that letter if it received it? The Eritrean Government has allowed organizations to mount publicity campaigns in Eritrea. Has any organization, such as the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, gone to Eritrea to mount such campaigns? Will the Eritreans currently working in governmental institutions here in Ethiopia go home? What will their fate be after the referendum if the result is independence?

[Meles] To answer the first question: I have not received such a letter. Had I done so, I would have replied: Let us not confuse two issues. Democracy in Eritrea is one issue and self-determination by Eritreans through a referendum is another. In fact, some organizations might wish to achieve both objectives at the same time—for example the ELF might have indicated so. It may believe that the UN must intervene during the referendum and correct some internal politics so as to enable the ELF to survive for a future role. But if they have a view of the Eritrean referendum which differs from that of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front—that is, if they believe that Eritreans should remain united with other Ethiopians—then they should be given a forum to advance that view. They have the right to raise their objections even as far as going to the UN, and the UN should help them air their views, to express a different view on the question of the referendum. But if it is an

issue of what the Eritrean political system should be then that is another question altogether.

But if they have a different stance on the referendum, then the UN can give them guarantees. For example, if they advocate unity, the UN can guarantee them the use of the media in Eritrea. If their question is on what the Eritrean political system should be, then the issue is not the referendum. First of all the fate of Eritrea must be decided—unity or independence. [passage omitted]

The second question is about Eritreans living in Ethiopia and working in Ethiopian governmental institutions. I think I have answered this question, but to repeat: Every Ethiopian has the right to any nationality. If he wants to be an Eritrean, he will be an Eritrean. If he wants to be an Ethiopian, then his rights as an Ethiopian are protected. If he says he is an Eritrean, then he cannot continue as an employee of Ethiopian governmental institutions. But if he says he is an Ethiopian, then he can continue working at the governmental institutions. But if he claims to be an Eritrean, then he will be allowed to live in Ethiopia like any other alien. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [passage indistinct] Ethiopia has foreign debts of over 17,000 million [currency unspecified]. Will an Eritrean government formed after the referendum share the burden? [passage indistinct]

[Meles] I have no idea or information about the said organization. Its name was mentioned at the Paris meeting, but I do not know exactly what its position is. Perhaps what is said here defines its position. The referendum process is in progress. What makes them think that the referendum is not being carried out at the wish of the people? How did they come to know such a thing before the referendum process has been concluded? How can they claim that the referendum has not been called for by the people? [passage omitted]

On the issue of the debt, there are two options: one is the settling of accounts. The first thing to do is work out how much Eritrea contributed to Ethiopia's economy since federation, as well as how much Ethiopia has contributed to Eritrea. The debt will go hand in hand with this settling of accounts. The other option is to ignore the issue of compensation and payments and start from scratch. If the first option is taken, it will be difficult to make the calculations. [passage omitted]

Kenya

KANU's Kamotho Admits Hiring Maasai Warriors

AB0104165193 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
1 Apr 93 p 1, 2

[Excerpt] The Maasai moran [warriors] who beat opposition supporters outside parliament buildings last week [on 23 March] were hired by the ruling party, KANU [Kenya African National Union] Secretary-General Joseph Kamotho admitted yesterday. The party had

brought 3,000 youthwingers from Kajiado District and elsewhere to deal with opposition supporters who, "as usual were known to cause chaos," Mr. Kamotho said.

The moran, who Mr. Kamotho said were ordinary Maa-sai, but in traditional attire, descended on supporters of opposition parties with metal-studded rungu [wooden clubs], whips and panga [machetes] outside the National Assembly during the state opening of parliament by President Moi.

A police security detail watched as the moran dispersed the opposition supporters who shouted anti-Moi slogans. They did not intervene and have since come up for public criticism.

Yesterday, Mr. Kamotho said the policemen's duty had been to maintain peace and protect the youthwingers. He said that Kajiado and Murang'a Districts had provided

200 youthwingers each, Nairobi 2,400 while the rest were "from different districts."

Speaking at the Machakos Boys' High School in Machakos District, Mr. Kamotho, the minister for education, asked: "What do you expect a KANU youthwinger to do when he hears someone shouting 'Moi must go?'" The minister, who officially opened a three-day Eastern Province secondary school headteachers' conference, said it was FORD [Forum for the Restoration of Democracy]-Asili [Original] supporters, mostly from the Mathare area of Nairobi, who provoked the KANU youthwingers into starting the beating.

KANU had to take precautions, he said, "because the last time, during the election of speaker of the National Assembly [on 26 January], Cabinet ministers' vehicles were stoned by FORD-Kenya supporters." [passage omitted]

Multiparty Forum Resolves To Keep Codesa Reports 'Alive'

MB0104175093 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1646
GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Johannesburg April 1 SAPA—The negotiating forum resolved on Thursday [1 April] to keep the Codesa [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] reports alive, instructing the negotiating council to consider and report on all matters arising from a consolidated report containing material from Codesa.

The negotiating council was also instructed to consider and report on the following constitutional issues:

- the form of state of a future South Africa and constitutional principles;
- transitional/interim constitution;
- transitional regional government;
- fundamental human rights during transition;
- a transitional executive council and sub-councils, an independent election committee and an independent media committee; and
- the future of the TBVC [Transkei, Boputhatswana, Venda, Ciskei] states.

No dissent to the resolution was recorded.

Ben Ngubane of the kwazulu government successfully proposed that the item "form of state," which was initially lower on the agenda, be moved to the top of the list of issues.

The African National Congress' [ANC] Cyril Ramaphosa said that, in keeping with the spirit which prevailed at the forum on Thursday, the ANC would not oppose this proposal.

Joe Slovo of the South African Communist Party said it was of fundamental importance that the issue of who decided the form of state—the negotiating forum or an elected body—should not be pre-empted, while the Democratic Party's Ken Andrew remarked that delegates should not argue about the item's position, because the sequence of topics would become muddled in subsequent talks anyway.

Conference Ends; Ramaphosa Comments

MB0104181193 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1714
GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Johannesburg April 1 SAPA—South Africa was firmly on the path towards a new constitutional dispensation, the African National Congress [ANC] said on Thursday [1 April] at the end of the multi-party negotiating forum at the World Trade Centre outside Johannesburg.

The conference, attended by 26 political parties, organisations and homeland governments, ended shortly before 6pm on Thursday.

It was initially billed as a two-day conference, but delegates whipped through the agenda.

"We in the ANC can safely say the negotiations process is firmly under way. The process is now no longer about procedures, but now about more substantive issues which will lead to a new constitution," ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa said at a press briefing on Thursday night.

"We believe we can keep to the time-frames we first set out when we began the process in earnest. We are pleased and appreciative of the way in which this meeting was conducted. We further believe that all matters tabled today were handled in a constructive manner."

Mr. Ramaphosa said the resolution on the emotive issue of violence in particular had enabled all participants to approach the problem in a non-partisan way.

"We hope all the parties will now rise above parochial interests and enter a plan of national interest with regard to this issue. The question of violence can now be handled on a collective basis instead of just the ANC and the government."

The ANC, he continued, would still hold meetings with the government to deal with various other problems, but the organisation would make proposals on the ending of violence available to the multiparty forum.

On the question of agreements reached at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), which were referred to the negotiating council for further deliberation, Mr. Ramaphosa said the ANC believed those agreements would "by and large be used by all parties to form a good foundation for the constitutional process".

The ANC envisaged two constitutions: one an interim constitution to govern the country during the transitional phase, and the second a final document emerging from an elected constitution-making body.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the interim constitution would, for instance, not have a bill of rights, but a charter of civil rights.

The constitution drawn up by the elected constitution-making body would have a bill of rights, and would also enshrine those rights.

"That is the way I believe the scenario has been charted," he added.

ANC National Executive Committee member Mac Maharaj was asked whether the Azanian People's Organisation [AZAPO] would attend negotiations following a recent meeting between AZAPO's Prof Itumeleng Mosala and ANC President Nelson Mandela.

"I cannot speak for AZAPO. But we do have the hope they might attend," Mr. Maharaj said.

Meyer Says Government 'Achieved' Goal

*MB0104182093 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1753
GMT 1 Apr 93*

[Text] Johannesburg April 1 SAPA—There was no doubt the negotiation process was still within its timetable after Thursday's [1 April] negotiating forum meeting. Minister of Constitutional Development and Government chief negotiator Roelf Meyer said on Thursday night.

He told a news conference at the World Trade Centre, Kempton Park, at the conclusion of the meeting that the agenda for future constitutional discussions had basically been drafted.

"We have achieved what we wanted to at this stage."

Discussions would now turn to addressing differences on constitutional matters to arrive at compromises.

But the issue of violence should be addressed.

"There is no way that negotiations can flourish under the current climate of violence in the country," Mr. Meyer said.

National Party [NP] negotiator Dawie de Villiers told the joint NP/government news conference he was delighted with the progress but that there were "still hard nuts to crack".

Minister of Law and Order Hernus Kriel said the African National Congress' proposals on joint control of the security forces would amount to control of the security forces, and that he was not in the market for this.

It was the duty of the government of the day to control the security forces. He would be prepared, however, to have a new government control the security forces.

Mr. Kriel said he shared in the optimism expressed after the session, but that the level of violence should be brought down before free and fair elections could be held.

He was not a prophet of doom, and if everyone cooperated an election could be held early next year, Mr. Kriel said.

Finance Minister Replies To Debate on Budget Reading

*MB0204133993 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1002
GMT 2 Apr 93*

[Text] Parliament April 2 SAPA—The South African economy was still functioning and, in many respects, had even improved its capacity for future growth despite adverse circumstances, the minister of finance, Mr Derek Keys, said on Friday.

Replying to debate on the first reading of the budget, he said his general feeling was that the economy had "had about as much as it could take" of counter-productive actions during the past year.

This included mass action as a political strategy, continued political violence, increased crime, political posturing and the slowness of political groups to realise the damage which they had done, and were continuing to do, to the country's domestic and foreign image.

"What do we have to do to make people realise that trying to use the economy to extract forced bargains from political opponents not only does not work, but devalues permanently the opinion which objective outside observers have of this country as a place where honest economic effort will be allowed to earn and keep its just reward."

Mr Keys said improvements such as the reduced inflation rate and foreign debt, and the growth in manufactured products would prepare the economy for future growth.

The first reading was approved following divisions in the house of assembly and the house of representatives. The objection of the Democratic Party was recorded in the House of Delegates.

Natural Uranium Released in 1992 Pelindaba Accident

*MB0204100793 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0957
GMT 2 Apr 93*

[Text] House of Assembly April 2 SAPA—Twenty-nine kg of natural uranium was released into the atmosphere following an accident at the Pelindaba nuclear enrichment plant on December 9 last year, the minister of mineral and energy affairs, Mr George Bartlett, said on Friday [2 April].

In a written reply to a question from Mr Roger Hulley (DP [Democratic Party] Constantia), he said the accident had happened at the feed, waste and product handling section of the enrichment plant.

The release of uranium hexafluoride at natural isotopic concentration to the immediate environment occurred as a result of the nuts used to secure a blind flange.

It was estimated that between 100kg and 150kg of uranium was released.

Of this, about 29kg was estimated to have escaped through the stack to the environment outside the process hall.

The accident was reported to the council for nuclear safety telephonically and in writing on December 9 1992.

Internal emergency measures were taken to assess the size and possible consequence of the release.

An evaluation during the accident, using an estimated size of release and a dispersion model to the environment indicated that the environment outside the plant as well as the public would not be affected.

No emergency procedures outside the plant were necessary or taken with respect to members of the public in the vicinity.

"It was not even necessary to take any special precautionary measures outside the plant on the site," Mr Bartlett said.

As a result of natural dispersion and distribution the dilution was such that no measurable material was found in the environment outside the plant and no area outside the plant was affected by the release.

De Klerk, Transkei's Holomisa Meet at Tuynhuys

MB0204085593 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0616 GMT 2 Apr 93

[SAPA PR Wire Service issued by the South African Communication Service on statement by President F. W. de Klerk to Major General H. B. Holomisa, chairman of the Military Council of the Republic of Transkei, in Tuynhuys 1 April]

[Text] I welcome this opportunity for the two of us to meet. The time has arrived for some face-to-face straight talking on the issue which brought us together today, namely the preliminary findings of the Goldstone Commission on the activities of APLA in the Transkei.

I presume that you have by now received a copy of my reply to your note no. 123 of 25 March 1993. Your allegations are without foundation. If you will excuse my saying so, most of them are preposterous. You ought to know that I did not give any order for certain persons deemed to be APLA members resident in Transkei, to be "wiped out" as you put it.

And to make matters worse, you threatened the South African Government and the South African people. You said that we will have to man each and every white home inside and outside Transkei because you won't be responsible if the people retaliate. You also said that the consequences of my supposed action would boomerang in my face.

I do not take kindly to comments like these and I also do not expect inflammatory statements from the head of government of a country which South Africa has close ties in almost every field.

Let me make it clear that, if South African citizens inside or outside the Transkei are harmed or their property is damaged or destroyed as a result of the actions or omissions of the Transkei government, I will hold you and your government responsible.

It cannot be in the interest of the people of Transkei to imply that if you do not get your way, whites will be murdered...I do not believe that that is the sentiment of the people of Transkei. The people of Transkei want peace and progress.

I am disturbed, to say the least, by the reference in your press release of 24 March 1993, to the Goldstone Commission's inquiry into APLA activities as a "kangaroo court". The inquiry had its origins in a report of the United Nations secretary general to the Security Council. The report was based on the visit to South Africa of two special envoys, sent to South Africa in terms of a security council resolution no. 765 of 16 July 1992. The brief of the special envoys was to recommend measures which would assist in, amongst other things, bringing an end to violence. They held discussions with all parties concerned, including a delegation from Transkei, led by yourself, on 25 July 1992. In his subsequent report the secretary general recommended that the Goldstone Commission undertake a series of investigations into the functioning and operations of certain organisations, including the Azanian People's Liberation Army. The United Nations Security Council accepted this report.

It is important to understand that Mr Justice Goldstone therefore took the initiative to launch the investigation into APLA in response to a recommendation of the United Nations Security Council. Mr Justice Goldstone furthermore has both the responsibility and the authority to take such decisions in terms of the provisions of his mandate without reference to the South African Government or any other government.

When the Goldstone Commission invites participation, and when it reports and makes recommendations it is incumbent on all interested and affected parties to respond constructively. The South African Government has done this on a number of occasions, even when it caused problems for the government. Thus, the South African Government agreed in November 1992 to co-operate fully with the Goldstone Commission with regard to an investigation into the intelligence activities of the South African Defence Force. The commission was given access to all information relevant to its mandate of investigating the activities of public and private armies and the agencies alleged to be involved in public violence. We also allowed a senior member of the mission's staff to work with General Steyn, to ensure that the commission would have the necessary access to information. We did this because we support the goals of the Goldstone Commission.

We expect the same attitude from the Transkei. Since Transkei is directly involved as a result of its participation in the multi-party negotiations and its close relationship with South Africa, it is incumbent on your government to respond constructively to the Goldstone Commission's requests.

I reject your attack on the integrity, objectivity and fairness of the Goldstone Commission. Its credibility and acceptability both internationally and in South Africa are beyond doubt. In South Africa practically all organisations, including the ANC [African National Congress], accept its work. It is widely recognised as an indispensable instrument in assisting to bring an end to

the violence and in helping to create favourable conditions for negotiations, leading towards a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and undivided South Africa.

The same is true of the international community. The United Nations secretary general has made specific mention of the fact that the efforts of the Goldstone Commission should be supported and that its recommendations should be fully and speedily implemented by the government and, when so required, by the parties in South Africa. The United Nations Security Council supports this view of the secretary general.

I may add that the twelve member states of the European Community adopted a statement on South Africa on 30 March 1993 in which they, inter alia, took note of the report of the committee of the Goldstone Commission on APLA activities as well as the commission's recommendations addressed to the international community. They also renewed their call to all parties to sign the National Peace Accord and to participate in the peace structures.

Against this background I want to reiterate that the South African Government urges the Transkei government to co-operate with the Goldstone Commission. Failure to do so will create a very serious situation.

The allegations which you made against the South African Government have, with respect, nothing at all to do with the findings of the Goldstone Commission. Attacking and vilifying us, will not make those findings go away, neither will it contribute to a resolution of the problem. The only rational and helpful response will be for Transkei to co-operate with the Goldstone Commission and put before it all the evidence at its disposals, to respond openly and fully to all the allegations and to refute them, if possible. And if they cannot be refuted then Transkei must take immediate and effective steps against APLA and all other organisations and individuals operating against South African citizens.

Transkei is a party to the negotiation process in South Africa. You have yourself propagated Transkei's reincorporation into South Africa. This could take place within a few months. You yourself travel to, and in, South Africa, ignoring the normal and accepted provisions that apply to a head of government. It is simply not realistic, at this advanced stage of the reform process to be technical and for Transkei to argue, when it suits it, that it is not involved in the Goldstone inquiry, simply because it is an independent state.

If you want any allegations against South Africa to be investigated, you are welcome to submit them to the Goldstone Commission. We will co-operate fully.

In the meantime we have also taken steps to protect South African citizens and property from any actions which may be launched from Transkei by APLA or any other similar organisation by guarding the border and border crossings. This is also to an extent part and parcel

of a countrywide operation in South Africa to prevent public violence in accordance with the recently announced ten-point plan of the South African Police. It is not an act of aggression. It is a serious effort to reduce violence which ought to enjoy the support of all leaders who sincerely wish to see an end to the senseless killing of our people.

As far as the violence is concerned we have reached a moment of truth. The government will not hesitate to take appropriate action whenever and wherever the security of its citizens is threatened.

South Africa is already in the transitional phase of constitutional reform and I would like to know from you when we can expect to discuss the steps which will be necessary to effect reincorporation. I realise that the multiparty conference will give attention to this matter but there are certain aspects that have to be addressed on a bilateral basis.

South Africa is on the threshold of momentous constitutional developments aimed at a new constitution and a new society that will usher us into a new era.

We must ensure the smooth progress of the talks by removing all obstacles in their way. The people of our region will thank us if we find a peaceful and reasonable resolution to our problems; they will not forgive any person or party that puts their own interests before that of the country as a whole.

Issued by the Office of the State President
Cape Town 1 April 1993

Holomisa 'Prepared To Cooperate'

*MB0104185893 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1829
GMT 1 Apr 93*

[Text] Cape Town April 1 SAPA—Transkei's chief justice is to head an investigation into allegations of Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA] bases in the territory, homeland leader Maj-Gen Bantu Holomisa said on Thursday [1 April].

Gen Holomisa was speaking after talks at Tuynhuys in Cape Town with State President F W de Klerk to defuse a crisis which has seen Transkei's borders being ringed by South African security forces.

"It was agreed that the chief justice of the Transkei, Mr Justice Beck, would head the investigation and he would work with any other structures available, including the Goldstone Commission," Gen Holomisa said after the 90-minute meeting.

"We went further to say that both police forces must work together to bring evidence before the Transkei commission."

Gen Holomisa said he and Mr de Klerk had touched on the question of South African troops controlling border posts between the two countries.

"We said that we were scaling down road blocks on our side and we requested that he (Mr de Klerk) must see that no-one is inconvenienced.

"It is a sensitive situation. We suggested that our good example be emulated to scale down the blockade."

Gen Holomisa said the meeting had been held in a good, frank spirit and he felt both parties were prepared to co-operate.

"From my side there has been no crisis."

Asked what would happen if APLA bases were discovered in his country, Gen Holomisa said the law had to take its course.

Neither APLA nor the African National Congress' armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation] were banned in Transkei.

Gen Holomisa denied his government had supplied arms to APLA.

Minister Botha Reviews Talks

MB0104200693 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1854
GMT 1 Apr 93

[By Lorraine Braid]

[Text] Cape Town April 1 SAPA—Tensions between the Transkei and South Africa appear to have eased after a 90-minute meeting between State President F W de Klerk and Maj-Gen Bantu Holomisa at Tuynhuys in Cape Town on Thursday [1 April] evening.

The meeting, described by Gen Holomisa as frank, came as a result of the Transkeian leader rejecting the preliminary findings of a Goldstone Commission report of the operations of the Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA] in the territory.

The Transkei government had also sent a provocative diplomatic note to South Africa on March 24, accusing Mr. de Klerk of ordering that APLA members living in Transkei be "wiped out".

Transkei's borders were then ringed by South African security forces.

In a toughly-worded preliminary statement, Mr. de Klerk said the time had come for "some face-to-face straight talking".

The allegations were unfounded and preposterous and he did not take kindly to either the South African Government or its people being threatened by a country with close ties.

Gen Holomisa appeared tense as he arrived at Tuynhuys for the scheduled 5pm meeting and refused to speak to the waiting press.

He said afterwards the meeting had been held in a good, frank spirit.

It had been agreed that if Transkei wanted to hold its own commission of inquiry into allegations of APLA bases in the homeland, it was important it co-operated with all other structures including the Goldstone Commission, Gen Holomisa said.

South African Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha said afterwards pressure had been reduced by the meeting.

Mr. de Klerk had made it clear the Transkei was free to do as it pleased, but there ought to be some co-ordination with the Goldstone Commission or the problem would not be solved.

"The emphasis fell on the necessity to respond to the Goldstone preliminary report," Mr. Botha said.

The foreign minister was referring to recent findings that APLA used the Transkei as a springboard for attacks into South Africa.

"My impression was that the Transkei delegation realised this. Mr. de Klerk made it clear it was not for two governments to agree on what Mr. Justice Goldstone must do. He's independent."

Mr. Botha said Transkei was not internationally recognised and the United Nations would not recognise a Transkei commission as it had recognised the Goldstone Commission.

"It was my impression that Gen Holomisa realised the urgency of the situation and, possibly by tomorrow, may reply to our diplomatic note of Wednesday."

Mr. Botha said Gen Holomisa had also indicated that Transkei was independent, and it would be constitutionally correct for the homeland to have its own inquiry.

In his initial statement, Mr. de Klerk said South African Defence Force [SADF] troops had been stationed on the Transkei border in part to protect South African citizens and property from any actions which could be launched by APLA from the homeland.

The deployment was also part of the South African police's 10-point plan to combat violence and was not an act of aggression.

Asked about the situation in the light of Thursday's talks, Mr. Botha said: "We will have to wait and see what develops, but for the time being I cannot see our government changing its decision.

"If a solution is found to whether Transkei reacts constructively to Goldstone, then the extent of control at borders might be revised. It will also depend on the assessment of the SAP [South African Police] on the desirability of reducing the extent of control."

Mr. Botha said it had been his impression that Transkei opposed the use of its territory by any organisation to attack South Africa.

Also present at the talks were SADF Chief Gen Kat Liebenberg and SAP Commissioner Gen Johan van der Merwe.

COSATU Issues Statement on Blockade of Transkei

*MB0204074493 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2136
GMT 1 Apr 93*

[SAPA PR Wire Service issued by the Congress of South African Trade Unions]

[Text] COSATU condemns the high-handed and arrogant action of the government in blockading Transkei. Pretoria is resorting to the language it knows best: the use of force to bully those refusing to bow to its dictates.

The targetting of Transkei has little to do with APLA [Azanian People's Liberation Army]. It has everything to do with the fact that Transkei and Bantu Holomisa has become a thorn in De Klerk's side. Apart from the principled and consistent pro-democracy stand taken by Holomisa, his revelations on the Goniwe death signal, and Operation Katzen, have struck a raw nerve in the De Klerk security establishment.

The attacks on civilians, which COSATU unreservedly condemns, are being used as a pretext to try and topple Holomisa in advance of democratic elections. No evidence has been revealed demonstrating Transkei collusion in these attacks, nor in fact that APLA was responsible for these attacks. De Klerk is misusing preliminary findings of the Goldstone Commission, which were based only on evidence of the SA [South Africa] Government. In any event it is not APLA who will suffer as a result of the blockade but ordinary people in Transkei. This of course is the intention.

It is immoral and in bad faith for De Klerk to launch this offensive against the Transkei before he has even met with Holomisa to discuss the allegations. This is deliberately aimed at forcing Holomisa to accept whatever terms this regime wants to dictate in the meeting.

It is hypocrisy of the worst order for this government to be claiming to be intervening to uphold peace and protect people, when it has refused to act when its allies have been directly involved in atrocities, of even a far greater magnitude. One only need look as far as the Ciskei massacre, the murders committed by the kwaZulu Police, and rampant repression in Bophuthatswana, where the government has refused to intervene on the basis that it doesn't have jurisdiction. Here, where not a single violent act has been attributed to the Transkei government, a total blockade is being implemented.

The government's attempts to force the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] and Transkei to sign the peace accord also demonstrates double standards, since it has conveniently kept quiet about the Bophuthatswana administration's refusal to sign the accord.

COSATU is calling on all our members and structures to rally in support of the Transkei, and to discuss action which can be taken to resist the blockade, including the targetting of embassies for pickets, and to discuss the possibility, depending on the outcome of today's meeting, of workers in areas surrounding the Transkei withdrawing their buying power.

AZAPO, ANC Agree on 'Number of Issues' 29 Mar

*MB2903104893 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0914
GMT 29 Mar 93*

[Text] Johannesburg March 29 SAPA--The Azanian People's Organisation [AZAPO] and the African National Congress [ANC] on Monday agreed on a number of issues, including that South Africa should remain one undivided country.

ANC President Nelson Mandela told a media briefing after a meeting with AZAPO officials in Johannesburg the two liberation movements had also agreed that the only way to achieve democracy in the country was to have an elected constituent assembly, which would then draw the country's constitution.

He said the two organisations would not allow the National Party to "play referee and player" in the transition period. It was imperative for all the people of South Africa to be represented in discussions on their future.

AZAPO and the ANC would not subscribe to and rejected unilateral decisions from the government, Mr Mandela said.

The two organisations also agreed on a time frame, particularly the speeding-up of a date for the first multi-racial elections.

AZAPO President Dr Itumeleng Mosala said the two organisations had reached common ground on speeding up the handover of power to the majority.

"We have also agreed to continue our efforts in future discussions, not only between ourselves, but with other organisations," Dr Mosala said.

Asked if there had been no hitches during their discussions in view of the fact AZAPO was not inclined to include other organisations, besides liberation movements, in such discussions, while the ANC was for building a front with other such groups, Mr Mandela said the matter had been raised.

He added, however, the matter was "too sensitive to be revealed to the media at this stage".

He said if the issue was revealed to the media it could possibly make it difficult for the organisations to reach common ground.

Dr Mosala said the two organisations had agreed on a common approach in the matter "as discussions are not only important for the liberation movements, but for all our people".

PAC Denies APLA Involvement in Eikenhof Attacks

MB0104135293 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] has denied any responsibility for the attacks at Eikenhof which left three people dead and four others injured. The organization has also told delegates at the multiparty talks that South African Police are able to prove its innocence. Patrick Cull reports:

[Cull] Publicity Director Barney Desai told the negotiating forum that the killing of women and children was against APLA [Azanian People's Liberation Army] policy, and the deaths at Eikenhof were indefensible. Stating that the PAC had the cleanest hands of all, Desai said the people that signed the peace accord were responsible for the latest carnage. There was no inherent reason to sign the National Peace Accord.

Earlier, the kwaZulu government's Ben Ngubane said South Africa's leaders should hang their heads in shame. He suggested that parties who did not sign the peace accord should not be allowed to attend multiparty talks.

CP Notes National Party Shift Over To ANC Views

MB2903104993 Pretoria PATRIOT in Afrikaans 19 Mar 93 p 8

[Unattributed report: "NP Is Minority Party"]

[Text] All surveys indicate that National Party, NP, support has dropped from 25 percent to 15 percent, and that the trend is continuing. Conservative Party, CP, MP for Lichtenburg, Ferdi Hartzenberg, said in Parliament during a debate on a new constitutional dispensation.

He said the NP believes it will win a one-man-one-vote election and even draw up the new constitution.

Meanwhile, not a single survey in South Africa has indicated that the NP would even get an overwhelming majority.

Latest surveys show that its support is still tumbling.

The worst disillusionment for the NP must have been when "Agenda" was broadcast live from Cape Town, and the NP representative, allotted 50 percent of the time slot, could score no points.

Dr. Hartzenberg referred to this debate, and said he had never seen such a demonstration of political duality as that demonstrated by the NP.

The NP's views on a future constitutional dispensation can in no way be reconciled with the agreements reached

between the government, the African National Congress, ANC, and the South African Communist Party, SACP.

According to part of the NP's view, the government, NP, the ANC/SACP alliance, undersign a unitary state.

By the acceptance of the Minutes of Understanding [as published], the government and the NP have accepted a unitary state, and with it a one-man-one-vote election, a constituent assembly, and one government for the whole country.

After that the government accepted, in bilateral talks with the ANC, a government of national unity to rule for a maximum of five years.

Thereafter it will be an ordinary government, but in the same five years, the majority in the cabinet would have majority decision-making powers.

In other words, it would be from the start a majority government. In so doing, the NP has completely shifted over to the ANC's view, while the ANC/SACP is standing where it has always been.

The government has undergone a complete landslide, Dr. Hartzenberg said.

Meyer Says Goal of Elections in 1993 'Still Attainable'

MB2903180393 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1725 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] Parliament Mar 29 SAPA—The goal of a general election within a year was still attainable and essential to bring political stability to the country, the minister of constitutional development, Mr Roelf Meyer, said on Monday [29 March]. All the necessary legislation to bring this about would be passed in Parliament this year, he said during the first reading budget debate. The government thought it politically prudent that the TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] states be re-incorporated into South Africa.

The coming week was significant for the negotiation process in which important choices had to be made which could no longer be pushed aside. "There will be instability as long as there are arguments about political support bases. This can only be determined through an election."

The negotiations and an election could also contribute towards combating crime. "If we do not succeed at the negotiations, an increase in tension will result. That is the reason for the government proposal that violence be placed on top of the negotiations agenda. It is essential, and in the national interest, that a joint effort be made towards combating violence. The forum is the right place to talk about violence because not everyone there is a

signatory to the National Peace Accord." This was in addition to what the government was doing to address violence directly.

Another subject that had to be debated at the negotiations was the composition and functions of the executive of the government of national unity. The government believed that decision making in the cabinet should fall on power sharing and party leaders should have special powers there.

This government of national unity would be in power for a long time and it was important to obtain clarity on its functioning and decision-taking. It had to amount to power sharing, not co-option. "This needs to be debated further and we must get sufficient clarification on this," Mr Meyer said.

The question of the TBVC states also needed to be discussed. These would have to be re-incorporated into South Africa. "The government feels it is constitutionally prudent that the TBVC states become part of South Africa again."

Arms Industry in 'Struggle to Survive'

MB2803134593 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 28 Mar 93 p 43

[By De Wet Potgieter: "Arms Industry Struggles for Survival"]

[Text] South Africa's armaments industry—once among the 10 biggest in the world—has borne the brunt of defence budget cuts in the past four years, says Jakkie Cilliers, co-director of the Institute for Defence Policy.

And as a result, he warns, the effectiveness of the South Africa Defence Force [SADF] is in jeopardy.

"The only thing left for the SADF to cut back on is its running costs, and to do that would seriously impair its capabilities.

"As a result of the damage done to the local armaments industry, the SADF can no longer be properly armed or equipped with its future needs—but at least some of the blame for that situation lies with the arms industry itself," says Mr Cilliers.

The problem, he believes, is that the arms industry waited too long to diversify.

"Now Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] and the privatised arm of the industry, Denel, are locked in a struggle to survive because the armaments industry scoffed at the advice of top industrialists to start opening doors to the private sector.

"The industry waited too long to branch out. It simply didn't read the signs of the times," he says.

"While South Africa might temporarily benefit from the availability of relatively cheap armaments from the

cash-stricken former Soviet Union's arsenals, the loss of technology if the local arms industry was killed off would be tragic.

"The danger is that as we become less self-sufficient and more reliant on arms supplies from the international market, the US would be in a position to manipulate and dictate, depending on the political climate, what South Africa can acquire.

"We have always been an untouchable military force in Africa. No country south of the Sahara, including Nigeria, has enjoyed military superiority over South Africa—but the question is how long we will be in a position to maintain that capability," says Mr Cilliers.

His main concern over the future of the SADF is: "What happens once the TBVC [Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei] states are reincorporated?"

"The SADF has cut back on its own staff, but will it be given the defence budgets of those countries in order to absorb their military forces as well as elements of Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation; African National Congress military wing] and APLA [Azanian People's Liberation Army]?"

"Integration of all the armed forces will cost a lot of money, and there's no indication where it will come from.

"The fact that South Africa has no identified enemy at present does not mean that no such threat will present itself in the future.

"We need a strong defence force to ensure our sovereignty, and South Africa should have a defence force that can play a leading role in international peace-keeping forces," he says.

Helmoed-Romer Heitman, South African correspondent for the authoritative Jane's Defence Weekly, says there is no question that the SADF has taken a "bad knock" from budget cuts.

"In the process, some important armament development programmes have been killed off. At the same time, some of the SADF's equipment is getting old and obsolete, and although there is no immediate threat against South Africa, it's vital to keep the continuity of armaments development," he says.

He points out that the Air Force now has effectively one squadron of fighter planes in operation—and they are more than 25 years old.

"Ten years from now, these cutbacks will come back to haunt South Africa. What is urgently needed is at least one well-equipped and prepared division and other divisions that could be brought up to standard quickly if needed for action," he believes.

While the SADF will not reveal what it has in its arsenals at present, it has admitted that obsolete vehicles and equipment are being auctioned off to the public.

Other cost-cutting measures include closing the pilot training school at Dunnottar and moving it to Langebaan on the West Coast, closure of the Pietersburg Air Force Base and transfer of Staff to Louis Trichardt and Hoedspruit, closure of the SAAF [South African Air Force] base in Port Elizabeth and dramatic scaling down of the bases at Potchefstroom and Durban, and retrenchment of 1,565 SAAF staff last year.

Aircraft mothballed as part of the rationalisation programme include the Shackletons, Bosbok, Kudu, Buccaneers, Canberras, Albatross, Mirage FICZs, C160s, Viscounts and Super Frelon and Wasp helicopters. There are also plans to withdraw the faithful DC4s from service.

Paper Explores Kalahari Nuclear Test Site

MB2803104193 Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English 28 Mar 93 p 27

[By Mark Stansfield]

[Text] There's miles and miles of sand and scrub bush in the Kalahari. We were told it would be almost impossible to find in the hundreds of square kilometres of monotonous red dunes.

But, hidden in a remote area, we did find one of South Africa's best-kept secrets: a nuclear test facility.

We visited it this week with permission to stomp and pry as much as we liked. We couldn't get inside the building erected over the test shafts, however, because the SADF [South African Defense Force] personnel escorting us had "forgotten the keys at home".

The quest to find South Africa's nuclear test facility started 12 years ago after a drunken conversation. There were few clues given at the time. "It" was hidden somewhere in the Kalahari, somewhere near Upington, and had a lime-decked road leading to it. It was a damn good bar-side yarn, little else.

This week the Atomic Energy Corporation's [AEC] Nicholaas Ligthelm gave a few more hints, and some valuable information, after the Government came clean about its nuclear programme.

Ligthelm was the one who finally admitted "it" did exist. In Government and military parlance, "it" is referred to as just "The Terrain."

Ligthelm said the site was under the control of the SADF. It had been developed should there ever be reason to conduct a nuclear test. It did indeed lie north of Upington, he said, but had never been used.

"Three shafts were drilled ... one has since been back-filled. The other two have had concrete "stoppers"

placed in them and slabs of cement laid over them ... A building has also since been erected over the shafts," he said helpfully.

"But I've never been there," he added.

Ligthelm did admit that Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency officials had visited the site themselves in 1991 in the company of AEC officials.

SADF personnel were amazed when told the news that they had under their control a secret the Government has been hiding successfully for about 20 years.

Well, South Africa's nuclear test site lies about 80 km north, and slightly west, of Upington at a place called Vastrap, and it was disguised as an SA Air Force-controlled test-range for aircraft-mounted munitions.

The base looks forlorn and abandoned now. Only two SAAF [South African Air Force] personnel stay permanently there, with a few Nama helpers.

The SAAF personnel and an SA Army commandant said they knew nothing about what had been going on at Vastrap—but an elderly Nama woman refreshed their memories.

"I have worked here 14 years in the kitchens," the old lady informed us.

"And I remember those Godless people who used to come here ... so picky, they were: 'wouldn't eat this, wouldn't eat that, because of their religion, you know.'"

She said she was talking about the Israelis "who don't believe in Jesus".

"They used to fly in here for the tests," she added.

The commandant "hurrumphed" a lot, so she stopped telling her tale about the Israelis and the "tests".

The site itself is nothing spectacular. One would expect something better for something so terrifying as the testing of nuclear power.

Huddled inside the cockpit of a Piper Arrow at 9,000 feet we could not even see the building that has since been erected over the site—probably to disguise it.

The airspace above Vastrap is a "no-fly" zone, from ground level right into the strato-sphere.

Our pilot, Yannis, assured us he was on the edge of the no-fly zone at 9,000 feet. All we could identify were the abandoned rows of barracks which lie about 15 km from the nuclear "shafts".

Then we drove out there.

The "Airforce Base Waterkloof: Vastrap Testing Range" sign looks innocent enough. So does the metal "Sculpture" of a skeleton holding a sickle at the entrance to the "restricted" zone. A sign above the skeleton says "Welcome to the Fleshpots of Egypt".

One drives for about 20 km through the Kalahari dunes, and there stands a huge, newly built hangar with a concrete apron. Not a runaway in sight, which makes the silver hangar look out of place, somehow. It is out of place: beneath it still exist two shafts where South Africa could have exploded the first nuclear device ever set off on African soil, a mere 80 km from Uppington and the people who lived there under the shadow of one of man's darker threats.

The site is exactly as Lighthelm described it: a concrete slab with a building on it. Behind the building one can see where the third "backfilled" shaft may have been excavated. The area is a churned mess of red sand, reinforced concrete, thick, twisted steel plates and chunks of granite which obviously came from deep beneath the earth. The concrete foundations of the "barracks", built in the mid-70s, where the men who built the site stayed, are also still visible. The area has been scattered with fibreglass models of tanks and other army vehicles, presumably to make it look like a conventional "battle school" to prying satellites.

There's little else left at such an historic site today.

In Uppington, we told residents about what lay out there in the desert. They did not seem to understand the technology. Even the name Hiroshima meant nothing to them and they were incredulous about what we were telling them.

The three shafts drilled into the Kalahari desert, which would have been used "if the need ever arose", were excavated by RUC [expansion unknown] Mining Pty Ltd.

RUC's company secretary, Pat Morrison, this week said "he had been party to that", but declined to comment about the project until the Government gave him permission.

That permission was not forthcoming at the time of going to press.

David Kyd, director for the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, declined to comment on a 1991 visit IAEA inspectors had made to South Africa's nuclear test site.

"That remains confidential because our investigations are not complete and certain other nations would be annoyed to read of such things in the press," he explained.

The information that IAEA inspectors had visited the site came from South Africa's AEC.

2 Apr Review of Press Editorials, Commentaries MB0204143793

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Government Urged To Take Action Against Holomisa—"Other than going into Transkei and taking out Azanian People's Liberation Army [APLA] nests (which we favour), the government's decision to seal off Transkei is the next best thing," notes Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 1 April in its page 6 editorial. Transkei leader Bantu Holomisa "has adopted a most belligerent attitude." "Accused by a Goldstone Commission committee of allowing APLA to use Transkei as a base for attacks on White targets in South Africa, he blandly denies the charge." THE CITIZEN urges President de Klerk to "read General Holomisa the Riot Act, and if the Transkei ruler gives him any more trouble, he should tighten the border controls and take even more drastic action to put an end to Transkei's intransigence."

THE STAR

Examination Fees Reduction Welcome—Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 2 April in a page 12 editorial welcomes the decision by Education and Training Minister Sam de Beer to reduce examination fees for black pupils by a third, "if it staves off the threatened disruption of white schools. Unnecessary tension might just be avoided at a time when negotiations are finely balanced." As for the National Education Coordinating Committee, "the time has come to ask whether its preferred tactics—including the disruption of schools—are a serious attempt to empower black pupils for the role they will play in the transition and beyond. It is difficult to see how the planned protests can achieve this end."

NEW NATION

Criticism of Judge Goldstone Handling of Transkei—Johannesburg NEW NATION in English for 2-8 April in its page 28 editorial has "been a strong supporter of the Goldstone Commission of Inquiry but we would be failing in our duty if we did not take issue with Justice Goldstone over his handling of the Transkei issue." NEW NATION fears "the work of the Commission could become an extension of the government's strategy. We find it totally unacceptable that the preliminary findings by the Commission are now being used to strengthen the hand of the government as happened with this week's sealing of South Africa's borders with Transkei." "There is a need to reduce the tensions in a level headed fashion. But we must point out that the first thing that needs to happen is for the government to recognise that it is not the only player politically or even militarily. The militarist jackboot methods of the past will no longer work."

THE WEEKLY MAIL

De Klerk Allows Electioneering To Hamper Negotiations—"Pressure should be brought on President F.W. de Klerk not to allow petty party politicking and electioneering to get in the way of national negotiations," warns a page 14 editorial in Johannesburg THE

WEEKLY MAIL in English for 2-7 April. The paper refers to two events that "raise cause for alarm about the National Party's willingness to allow its own internal problems to sour talks with other parties." Firstly, it notes Minister Hernus Kriel's "attempt to disrupt talks about the future of the security forces with a petty and small-minded attack on Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation]. It has become apparent that he did so with an eye on his personal ambition to become Cape provincial party leader by garnering the

support of those who are wary of the NP's [National Party] bilateral agreement with the ANC." Secondly, it notes that "unable to deal head-on with APLA, De Klerk is trying to use the issue to undermine a political opponent, in this case General Bantu Holomisa, and pander to white security fears. It is striking that De Klerk has not shown any such inclination to deal strongly with two other homeland leaders who disrupt negotiations, Lucas Mangope and Mangosuthu Buthelezi."

Angola

MPLA Central Committee Begins Session 31 Mar

MB0104142893 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Central Committee of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA], is meeting to review the country's current political and military situation. The meeting, which is scheduled to end on 1 April, will also discuss internal matters affecting the party, namely the appointment of a new secretary general.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] We have noticed that the meeting is being attended by members of the delegation that usually takes part in talks with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. Are there any developments, regarding the talks?

[MPLA official Joao Lourenco] There are no developments, though the agenda includes a review of the talks that have been held between the government and UNITA. In principle, the Central Committee will be informed about the government's continued willingness to try to resolve the conflict through negotiations. So, the government is open to talks provided that they are held within the framework of the Bicesse Accords and if the September 1992 election results are adhered to.

[Reporter] The fifth ordinary session of the central Committee is being chaired by MPLA leader Jose Eduardo dos Santos. The media has not been allowed to attend the proceedings, though the agenda includes a report on the country's situation, the peace accords and an evaluation of the government's measures to implement the accords, an account of the talks with UNITA and reorganization within the party. [end recording]

UNITA Team Returns for 'Imminent Talks' With Government

MB0104144693 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] A delegation of the Angolan UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] movement has cut short a diplomatic tour to return to Angola to prepare for imminent talks with the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government in Luanda. This step follows consultations with a U.S. team in Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire.

A UNITA statement said the talks with the Angolan Government are scheduled for the 12th of this month. The statement said the consultations in Abidjan were an important step in putting the Angolan peace process back on track. Both UNITA and the MPLA government knew what was on the agenda, and this included matters such as cease-fire, completion of the peace accord, national reconciliation, and also the release of prisoners.

Prime Minister Moco Leaves for Harare Frontline Meeting

MB0204060993 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The Frontline heads of state will meet in the Zimbabwean capital tomorrow. The meeting will center its discussions on issues connected with southern Africa, particularly the present situation in Angola. Prime Minister Marcelino Moco is already in Harare. [passage omitted]

Before his departure for Harare, the prime minister told the press at 4 February International Airport that he was very optimistic about the results of the Harare meeting. Marcelino Moco said for the Angolan delegation, the Harare meeting signifies the continuation of the diplomatic fight to enable the people of this country to achieve peace as soon as possible.

[Begin Moco recording] During the Frontline summit we shall continue our fight to achieve peace as soon as possible. I believe we are going to [words indistinct]. We shall make another important step toward peace, despite the [words indistinct]. This summit will fundamentally enable us to explain the present military and diplomatic situation. We shall ask the solidarity of African peoples to help the Angolan Government overcome the crisis caused by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. We shall ask our African brothers to provide us military and humanitarian assistance. Hence, it is important to brief them on the present situation in the country. [end recording]

UN Representative Discusses Relief Aid to Huambo

MB0204061893 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 1 Apr 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] At last, some might say the Angolan MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government and the United Nations have begun an operation to rescue refugees from Huambo in the central highlands. They fled the fierce fighting last month before the city fell to UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]. Since then, the refugees have been trekking through the bush to Caimbambo, 250 km away. Now helicopters have gone into airlifting to the coastal towns of Lobito and Benguela. On the line to Luanda, Rageh Omar asked UN representative Margaret Anstee what condition the refugees were in.

[Begin recording] [Anstee] I gathered they are in pretty poor shape. You know, the last count that I heard, something like 17,000 people were supposed to have arrived there. We were asked to take out of Benguela those who were in the worst state. We were told there were about a 1,000 of them, mostly women and children who were either sick or injured. It now turns out that there are at least 3,000 or 4,000. Today, I understand

another 500 had been taken out. So, we have rescued about 1200 [figure as heard] of them.

[Omar] Are there people still actually trying to make their way from Huambo to places like Benguela and Caibambo?

[Anstee] I think they are. Yes, I think that there are a lot of people still trying to go through this terrible journey which involves climbing over mountains, going [word indistinct] through the bush, and who are still trying to cross these torrential rivers.

[Omar] Now, has any progress actually been made by the UN in trying to administer relief to people still stuck in Huambo? Has there been any progress on that?

[Anstee] Well, we are still discussing this, because—and I do want to make clear—that while Huambo, of course, has a particularly large population there, but this is not a problem which is only located in Huambo. There are similar problems in, for instance, cities like Cuito, Bie, and further south at Menongue. They are smaller, but they have been the center of fierce hostilities between the two sides for several weeks, and we cannot get in there either. The humanitarian aid should have unimpeded access to people in need everywhere, but of course, this is difficult in a situation of hostilities, and we need the permission of both sides in order to be able to get into some of these places, where it is extremely hazardous to arrive. Last Friday [26 March] in the evening, a UNITA representative called me rather late at night to ask for assistance to go into Huambo, and we have got a plan already lined up, but we are still negotiating this with the two sides.

[Omar] So, as I understand it, UNITA has actually made a formal application to the United Nations for the UN to come to Huambo and at least try and begin to administer humanitarian relief to refugees and displaced people there as well?

[Anstee] Yes, it was in the form of a telephone call that I received from Dr. Valentim in Abidjan last Friday evening.

[Omar] You also mentioned Cuito, Bie, where fierce fighting has reportedly been taking place between MPLA and UNITA. What is your latest information on the situation there?

[Anstee] I do not have any direct information because, while we had a team there before, we had to evacuate them, as we had to evacuate many others because they were caught in the middle of the hostilities and could no longer do their work of verification and observation. So, I have lost my eyes in and around the country. [end recording]

ICRC Investigates Reports of Prisoner Executions

MB0204062093 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[From the "Channel Africa Report"]

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] says it is trying to verify media reports that the Angolan Government and the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] movement are executing prisoners of war. ICRC Luanda representative Christophe Verliesh says looking after POWs is one of the main briefs of his organization. He was on the line from Luanda to Steyn de Preuter.

[Begin recording] [Verliesh] In this sense we need the active cooperation of both parties. We have submitted this very general request to both parties on several occasions, be it through direct contact with UNITA representatives, or be it through direct contact with the authorities of the government here. Until now we haven't got access to the persons captured and detained by UNITA, and we haven't had the same by persons captured by the government. But I want to stress that these are on-going discussions, and we very much hope to get results as soon as possible.

One of the difficulties that we face—and I think the parties as well—is to get access in the field to those people, because of course many regions are not accessible to the ICRC, and it's still very difficult for practical reasons to have this access in order to visit, register, and give the prisoners the possibility to write Red Cross messages to their families.

[De Preuter] There are many allegations and rumors that neither party are taking prisoners of war at the moment, that they are summarily executing prisoners. What is your information on this subject?

[Verliesh] Of course, we have been informed by the international press, and directly by representatives of international press here in Luanda, about such sentences pronounced by different officials. We are concerned by this, and we do hope that this doesn't correspond totally to the reality. This is why with much more strength we have asked both parties to give us the possibility to cross-check all this information in order to have a clear picture. [end recording]

* Self-Governing Plan for Cabinda Discussed

Lisbon PUBLICO in Portuguese 6 Mar 93 p 11

[Excerpts] Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Marcolino Moco have already acknowledged the political-administrative statute for Cabinda. According to the document to which PUBLICO has access, the former Portuguese protectorate "will exercise its sovereignty by becoming a political-administrative community within the framework of the Angolan State."

According to the proposal prepared in collaboration with the present governor of Cabinda, Augusto Tomas, the enclave would officially be designated the Political Administrative Community of Cabinda and its "autonomous government" would be called the Higher Governing Council. Portuguese and "fiote" (the language of the Cabindan people) would be spoken in the Community and the territory would also have its own flag, anthem, and seal, as well as its own parliament.

However, those industries "which are subject to mining, hydrocarbons, and nuclear energy legislation," would remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Angolan Government. [Paragraph] No. 5 of Article 14 of the proposal specifies that foreign technology transfer authorization "would remain the exclusive jurisdiction of the Angolan State." This article was included with a view to keeping the petroleum industry, which constitutes 95 percent of national revenue, in the hands of the Angolan State.

The president of the republic and the Angolan prime minister have not voiced their opinions on the proposal in question, which, meanwhile, will be discussed in the Council of Ministers and submitted for approval by the National Assembly. During the preparation of this political-administrative autonomy bill, PUBLICO discovered that the governor of the province was in permanent contact with the various FLEC (Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave) factions. These factions, Tiburcio Luemba's Renewed; N'zita Tiago's FAC (Cabindan Armed Forces); and Inacia Kivila's Lubota, have reaffirmed their rejection of autonomy for the former Portuguese protectorate. [passage omitted]

President Eduardo dos Santos's conversations with FLEC last year were not successful. Peso Bambi (secretary-general of FLEC's Supreme Coordinating Council) created in 1991 in Lisbon, N'zita Tiago, and Tiburcio Luemba do not recognize the legitimate authority of Ranue Frank (so-called spiritual leader of FLEC), Eduardo Sozinho, and Luis Gimby to negotiate in the name of the separatist movement. [passage omitted]

Botswana

Soldiers Depart 1 Apr for UN Operation in Mozambique
MB0204073693 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0347
GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Gaborone April 1 SAPA—Nearly 1,000 Botswana soldiers left for Mozambique on Thursday [1 April] to participate in the United Nations peacekeeping operation there.

More Botswana Defence Force [BDF] members are expected to follow their 740 comrades to the east African country soon.

More than 300 BDF soldiers are in Somalia with the UN.

BDF Officer Refutes Allegations of U.S. Links to Air Base

MB0104175993 Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English
30 Mar 93 p 4

[Report by Beata Kasale: "BDF Man Blasts Airbase Claims"]

[Text] A Botswana Defence Force (BDF) Lieutenant-General, Ian Khama, has refuted allegations that the U.S.A. is funding the construction of a military airbase in Botswana.

According to Khama, the 600 million Pula (approximately R[and]900 million) airbase is solely for the security of Botswana and is funded by the Botswana government. The money will be spent on infrastructure and services.

The BDF man said the location of the present airbase, in the centre of Gaborone city, was unsafe and exposed civilians to aircraft accidents. That was why the base was being moved to Mapharangwane, about 80 kilometres from the city.

"On completion of the airbase, military personnel, and equipment will be moved from the present location and the land it occupies will be handed over to the Ministry of Local Government and Housing," Khama said during a visit to Namibia last week.

"This will enable expansion of the University of Botswana which cannot grow because of our using this piece of land."

He noted that there had been allegations that the Americans were spending over US \$1 billion on the construction of the bases.

He retorted: "This is ridiculous because the American government has made it very clear that they are cutting back on foreign involvement."

Both the Botswana government and the American embassy in Botswana have clarified this issue in the past but people want to believe there are other motives for purpose," he said.

The construction of the airbase and the presence of American military personnel has caused concern in Botswana.

However, Khama responded saying: "I don't see why the presence of American soldiers in Botswana should alarm anybody because they train our troops. "We've got military personnel from other countries as well who are involved in our training programmes. These training exercises are ongoing and were implemented even before the construction of the base."

Asked whether the new airbase would pose a threat to the region, he commented: "Botswana is not a threat to the

region and will never pose a threat to anybody." Khama also dismissed allegations that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was involved in the airbase. "Nato is trying to re-organise itself after the Warsaw Pact and I don't see how airbase could concern them," he concluded.

Lesotho

Government Handover To Proceed Amid Coup Rumors

MB0204063593 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0500 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Lesotho's ruling military council says the new prime minister and civilian government will be sworn in as planned today. Diplomats there earlier said there were widespread rumors that rebel soldiers would attempt to try a coup to prevent a return to civilian rule, but the losers in the general election want the result set aside.

The Basotholand National Party says in a statement that it's appealing to the Maseru High Court to have the poll invalidated and the handover halted. The BNP says it's making the application in the light of the discovery of what it call doctored ballot papers. The Basotho Congress Party won every seat in Lesotho's parliament.

Military Council Holds Emergency Meeting; Maseru Calm

MB0104154193 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The situation in Lesotho's capital, Maseru, is reportedly calm despite rumors of a coup. The country's Military Council has been holding an emergency meeting although it is unclear what they are discussing.

Earlier truck-loads of soldiers sped through Maseru toward Government House and the building housing Radio Lesotho. A government source says there are strong rumors that a faction of the army is unhappy that the Military Council is relinquishing control. The Basotholand Congress Party swept to power in this week's elections, the first in Lesotho in 23 years.

BCP's Mokhehle Says Situation Under Control

MB0204103593 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Interview with Prime Minister-elect Ntsu Mokhehle by reporter Hilton Fyle on the "Network Africa" program—recorded]

[Text] Will the swearing in of Lesotho's new prime minister, Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle, go ahead this morning as planned? That question has been flying in the air since early yesterday when some reports were speaking about a coup attempt in Lesotho. Elections took place there last weekend and resulted in victory for the BCP, the

Basotho Congress Party. They took all the seats, but the opposition has been complaining. Well, yesterday the Lesotho Military Council held a meeting to discuss the situation and shortly after that meeting I called up the prime minister-elect, Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle. He is in Maseru, the capital. I asked him first of all if there was anything that would stop him being sworn in today.

[Begin recording] [Mokhehle] Well, there is a complaint from the opposition. One of the chief intelligence service men brought an idea that there has been a fraud. The Military Council has held a meeting right through the day today up to, I think, a few minutes ago trying to sort out this allegation.

[Fyle] Do you know the outcome of that meeting?

[Mokhehle] I think, the outcome of that meeting is that, I think, the story of the fraud is baseless because I learn the chief electoral officer has indicated that there is no fraud at all in the operations on Saturday [27 March].

[Fyle] We heard reports that truck loads of soldiers were speeding through Maseru towards Government House and there was some military activity in the city and it gave rise to rumors of a possible coup attempt. What do you say to that?

[Mokhehle] Yes, the group of soldiers passed through the streets from one camp to another. I learned that in the second camp there was restlessness. So, another unit was taken from another place to go and look after the position there. I learn now we could consider it as normal.

[Fyle] Now, it's Thursday [1 April] evening, all is quiet?

[Mokhehle] Yes, the danger points which have been passed. [sentence as heard].

[Fyle] Have you been in touch with the Lesotho Military Council itself after their meeting?

[Mokhehle] I was to have met them this morning at 11 o'clock [0900 GMT], but because of this apparent restlessness I didn't meet them and I am still waiting even now.

[Fyle] But have you any fears about what they might tell you or are you confident that they will give you the go ahead.

[Mokhehle] I am very confident that they will give me go ahead, sir.

[Fyle] What about the position of the king?

[Mokhehle] We expect that whoever becomes the king, he will have to submit himself entirely to the Constitution and the laws that the parliament will have to put from time and again. [sentence as heard] The situation in which the king made his own arrangements about meetings and things like that against the government, I think we'll have to work hard to stop that. The king and the chiefs must know that they are under government.

[Fyle] So, we are talking about a king who will in future hold a nominal position in Lesotho.

[Mokhehle] They must be constitutional monarchs. That's all. They must be strictly controlled by the requirements of the Constitution and the laws to be put by the parliament from time and again.

[Fyle] Mr. Mokhehle, in the seventies you won elections there, in Lesotho, and victory was snatched from you. There was a coup. Have you any worries this time?

[Mokhehle] I am not worried this time. I think the presence of international organizations and delegations to watch these elections has helped us quite a lot because Mr. Sekhonyana when he realized that he was losing then he became very wild indeed. If these people were not here, I think he would have started trouble.

[Fyle] And what about the situation in the streets of Maseru?

[Mokhehle] Very quiet and expecting tomorrow's activity. They are looking forward to the time when their new government will be sworn in, but the people are happy.

[Fyle] We hear you won all the seats. Your party, the BCP, won all the seats in the elections. Does it not worry you that there might not be any effective opposition, in fact no opposition at all in Parliament?

[Mokhehle] Here the one party arrangement is being created by a democratic process and I think it's not meant in anyway to throttle any opposition except that they will not operate from within the parliament. They will have their parties established in their offices. They will hold meetings freely which is different from a strictly one-party system.

[Fyle] Will you be bringing in any members of the other party, the BNP [Basotho National Party], into the new cabinet?

[Mokhehle] No, not likely. We haven't considered that yet, but it's possible to get them into the senate and some other sections.

[Fyle] So, what about the opposition itself, are you on good terms with them or are you enemies?

[Mokhehle] Well, we are very much on talking terms and wherever we can push them into a committee or a council or things like that, we'll do so. [end recording]

Mokhehle Pledges To Improve Economy, Education

MB0104200093 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1600 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister designate of Lesotho, Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle, has pledged that his government will strive for the improvement of the economy, education, and general wellbeing of the Basotho nation. This was contained in a statement he released yesterday following

the landslide victory of his party, the Basotholand Congress Party [BCP], in the country's general elections.

Dr. Mokhehle said following the retrenchment of the Basotho workers from the South African mines, serious efforts to engage them in the production of high value cash crops must be made. He said this will involve introduction of massive irrigation schemes.

On industrial development, Dr. Mokhehle said his government will seriously address the present situation where foreign investors are competing with the local entrepreneur in small businesses. He said foreign investors will be encouraged to invest in large enterprises that will provide much employment for the nation.

Dr. Mokhehle said his government will initiate an exchange of ideas between parents, students, churches, and the government itself on how to establish an educational system that will answer the needs of the country. He emphasized that his government welcomes the entire wealth of talent in the civil service which consists of people of all political persuasions. He allayed fears that his government will threaten people's jobs, saying all who are prepared to serve the government of the day are welcome.

Madagascar

'Rebel Forces,' Commandos Clash in Antsiranana

AB0104211793 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Antananarivo, April 1 (AFP)—At least two people were killed and an unspecified number injured in clashes between rebel forces and commandos loyal to Madagascar's new President Albert Zafy, radio Madagascar reported Thursday [1 April].

The clashes took place Wednesday in the northern town of Antsiranana, the radio said, between commandos who supported Zafy before his victory in February elections over former president Admiral Didier Ratsiraka, and rebel forces.

The federalist rebels, who support Ratsiraka, are against the unitary state envisaged by the constitution, adopted by a referendum in August 1992, because it reduces presidential powers and gives a bigger role to the prime minister and parliament.

The two sides have clashed on several occasions at Antsiranana, considered a federalist base, in the last few months.

Radio Tsioka Vao (RTV), a private radio station owned by former President Ratsiraka, said four people died and several were seriously injured in the clashes, including civilians as well as troops. It blamed the commandos loyal to the president for the clashes, which it said were followed by pillaging in the town.

Radio Madagascar did not specify on whose side those killed were fighting. It said all businesses and shops were closed in Antsiranana Thursday.

RTV said the presidential forces had fled Antsiranana for Ambilobe and Antsohihy, two towns on the north-western coast of this Indian Ocean island nation.

Zafy defeated Ratsiraka in the second round of presidential elections on February 10 this year. The former president had been in office since 1975.

Malawi

Joint Cooperation Agreement Signed With Taiwan

MB3003163693 Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Malawi Government and the Republic of China have signed a new technical cooperation agreement. The agreement was signed today in Zomba by the minister of finance, Honorable Louis Chimango, and the ambassador for the Republic of China to Malawi, Mr. Cheng-jen Shih. Speaking during the seminary, Honorable Chimango thanked the Republic of China for its continued technical and other assistance to Malawi since independence. (He noted that) [words indistinct] between the two countries, Malawi has benefitted from technology transfer and human [words indistinct] in agriculture.

Honorable Chimango also said that, apart from the cultural and [word indistinct] programs between the two countries, the Republic of China has given Malawi humanitarian aid to alleviate suffering. He therefore [words indistinct] technological [passage indistinct]

Detention of Opposition Politician Viewed

MB0204061793 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 1 Apr 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] It has not been a good year for Malawi opposition politician Pakili Mbuluzi [words indistinct] the United Democratic Front, but in February he was arrested and charged with embezzling money while he was a member of the ruling Malawi Congress Party eight years ago. He was released on bail, appeared in court in Blantyre this morning, thought he was a free man, but already he is back inside. Well, Mr. Mbuluzi's lawyer, Gordon Chuzumira was in court this morning. On the line, Robin White asked him what happened.

[Begin recording] [Chuzumira] When we went to court today, the lawyers representing the state applied for an adjournment on the grounds that the chief public prosecutor, who was supposed to prosecute was out of the country, and so we objected to the application on the ground that it was not sufficient and called for his discharge. The court agreed with us and discharged him

[words indistinct] you are a free man. You can go anywhere you want. You can have your passport back, which has been seized, and you can have the bail money that you have paid refunded to you.

[White] So, he left court a free man and then what happened?

[Chuzumira] Then he went to his office and around late this afternoon, Malawi time, around four o'clock, the police went to his office and told him that they were arresting him on a new charge of obtaining money by false pretenses.

[White] So, they took him where?

[Chuzumira] They took him to police, the southern division headquarters in Blantyre where I was able to catch up with him. When I asked the arresting officer [words indistinct] he said that he arrested him for obtaining money by false pretenses and he refused to give me the details and then they [words indistinct], then took him to Blantyre remand prison.

[White] And he is in jail now?

[Chuzumira] As I am talking to you, he is in jail, and as far as I am concerned as a lawyer, the Malawi Government is not arresting Mr. Mbuluzi because of anything that he has done or because of their desire to see that justice is done. They simply [words indistinct] vendetta.

[White] So, what will you do now?

[Chuzumira] Well, I am going to the High Court tomorrow morning, first thing tomorrow morning. We will try and apply for bail for him to be released immediately. [end recording]

Mozambique

UN's Ajello Briefs Chissano on Meeting With Dhlakama

MB0104155493 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] President of the Republic Joaquim Chissano today received in audience Aldo Ajello, the UN secretary general's special representative in Mozambique, who briefed him on the meeting he held with Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo], in Maringue yesterday. Aldo Ajello told President Chissano that Dhlakama had assured him that he would send elements to integrate the commissions in order to proceed with the Mozambican peace process. On the possibility of a meeting between Joaquim Chissano and Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama, Radio Mozambique learned that the head of state had accepted the proposal, but the venue and date of the meeting are still to be set.

Mocumbi Notes 'Dangerous' Delays in Sending Peacekeepers

MB0104151293 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Mozambique has complained about dangerous delays in sending UN peace keepers to implement the peace agreement. Mozambican Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Mocumbi said only a handful of peace keepers had been deployed, instead of the 8,000 promised. As a result, implementation of the peace agreement ending the civil war in Mozambique was running months behind schedule.

He told a news conference during a visit to Washington that the cease-fire was holding, and that people could move fairly freely throughout Mozambique. Important steps such as the separation, concentration, and demobilization of armed forces had, however, not yet been taken. He said Mozambique was asking the United Nations to speed up the deployment of personnel.

Beira City Receives Last Italian Contingent

MB0104150793 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The last Italian contingent consisting of 180 men, who will join the UN Operations in Mozambique [Unomoz], has arrived in the city of Beira, Sofala Province. The contingent will join the other Italian soldiers already deployed along the Beira Corridor in place of the Zimbabwean forces. Brigadier General Luigi Fontana, commander of Unomoz's Italian contingent, told our Beira correspondent that with the arrival of that contingent, the 1,300-strong Italian battalion has been completed. The Italian force has been deployed within the framework of the Mozambique General Peace Accord.

Foreign Minister Mocumbi Meets Butrus-Ghali

MB0104190393 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday, Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi met UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali with whom he studied ways of sending UN observers for the Mozambican peace process. The UN Security Council is expected to meet soon to decide on the issue.

Namibia

Government Expresses Concern Over Angolan Refugees

MB0104093793 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 0500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Namibia has expressed concern and outrage at the mounting refugee problem resulting from the Angolan civil war. Namibian Foreign Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab said the influx was straining his country's infrastructure, and had led to severe food shortages.

He was speaking in New York after high-level talks with key members of Congress and the State Department. Mr. Gurirab suggested that the United States ask Morocco, Zaire, and certain other countries in Africa and the Middle East to help persuade the warring parties in Angola to cooperate in the peace talks.

He also pointed out that if UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader Jonas Savimbi kept his threat of attacking the Cunene River's Caluque-Ruacana Dam in southern Angola, he could cut off hydroelectric power to half the Namibian population. The loss of energy to mining and commercial agriculture would devastate Namibia's economy. In addition to this, Mr. Gurirab alleged that Namibia has lost a very important export market in southern Angola because of the civil war there.

Swaziland

Home Affairs Minister on Official Visit to Cape Town

MB0204061293 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] His Majesty the king has sent the minister for home affairs, Prince Sobandla, to Cape Town, South Africa, to deliver a special message to the South African Government. A statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs said this is in pursuance of fostering good relations with neighboring countries.

The minister's delegation comprises, among others, the commissioner of police, Mr. Sandile Mdziniso, Principal Chief of Protocol, King's Office, Princess Gcebile, under-secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. John Dube, STBC [Swaziland Television and Broadcasting Service] reporter Qhawe Mamba, and the minister's private secretary, Mr. Kwazi Mabuza.

Benin**Soglo Receives Babangida Message on Togolese Situation**

AB0104115093 Cotonou Office de Radiodiffusion-
Television du Benin Radio in French 0615 GMT
1 Apr 93

[Text] An emissary from President Babangida was received by the head of state on 31 March. Indeed, General Ibrahim Alfa delivered a message from the Nigerian president to President Soglo. The message bore on the political situation in the subregion and in Togo in particular. Gen. Ibrahim Alfa said that Cotonou was the first leg of his West African mediation tour aimed at finding a solution to the Togolese tragedy and also reducing the tension between Togo and Ghana.

Cote d'Ivoire**Paper Reports on Republican Guard Mutiny**

AB0104215393 Abidjan LA VOIE in French 1 Apr 93 p 2

[Article by Charles Bede—first paragraph is LA VOIE introduction]

[Text] Around 0200 on 30 March [as published], the 300 commandos who had surrounded the Presidency received orders from senior Gendarmerie commander General Tanny to attack the 45 members of the Republican Guard who had besieged the Presidential Palace for 48 hours.

The mutineers' swift and powerful response routed the members of the Gendarmerie after a violent exchange of fire. Two rockets fired at the Palace landed in the Ebrie Lagoon. Powerless in the face of the mutineers' armada—powerful arms from the Presidency armory, including the TNTs [as published] that had been ordered following the recent Gbeta bombardment by Taylor's rebels—the gendarme commandos had to turn back following General Robert Guei's intervention. He is the National Armed Forces chief of staff and was aware of clashes at the Palace.

It must be stressed that the worst had been averted. The battle was an uneven balance between the under equipped Gendarmerie commandos and the mutineers, who had access to the armory of the Presidency in the Palace basement, where arms to which the Army and the Gendarmerie do not have access are kept. Although a bloodbath between the Republican Guard and the Gendarmerie was avoided, the situation at the president's residence in Cocody appeared confused.

One hundred and fifty Republican Guard soldiers surrounded the president's residence, closing even the tunnel that linked President Houphouet-Boigny's residence to the French ambassador's residence. The Republican Guard reopened the tunnel during the afternoon of 31 March.

The mutineers reaffirmed their gratitude to the president for intervening on their behalf. There were no victims in the pitched battle between the Gendarmerie commandos and the 45 soldiers of the Republican Guard. Although the iron gates of the Presidency have been reopened, tension is still high. A close eye is being kept on three senior officers: Colonel Oue Kla, commander at the Palace, General Tanny, and General Kouassi—the last two being senior officers who previously worked at the Palace.

There are reports of evidence found in the head of state's office which allegedly proves that the head of state has indeed always paid bonuses and allowances to the Republican Guard. The allowances were allegedly used for other purposes by these senior officers, who were and still are in charge of those allowances. Colonel Oue Kla is a member of the Republican Guard. Is the head of state really in a dilemma? What will his decision be?

There has been absolute silence on these serious events of 30 March. The radio, television, and FRATERNITE MATIN did not react to the events. What is in store for us if the head of state does not accede to the Republican Guard's demands?

Ghana**Government Warns Togo's Eyadema Against 'Aggression'**

AB0104185393 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation
Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Ghana has warned that she will hold President Gnassingbe Eyadema responsible for any act of aggression against her by Togo. The foreign minister, Dr. Obed Asamoah, said this in Accra today when he briefed the diplomatic community in Ghana on the country's position on the Togolese crisis. Amin Alhassan reports:

[Alhassan] Dr. Asamoah's briefing follows a similar meeting held by the Togolese foreign minister with the diplomatic community in Lome last Monday [29 March] during which he accused Ghana of involvement in the recent attack on a military camp in that country. The Togolese minister alleged that a captured Ghanaian, one Michael Okeri, indicated during interrogations that the attack was masterminded by a prominent Togolese politician, Mr. Gilchrist Olympio, with the active support of the Ghana Government. He further accused Ghana of allowing an opposition pirate radio station to operate from the country, adding that apart from taking the matter to ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States], Togo will not remain with arms folded while events continue that way.

Dr. Asamoah condemned the unfounded allegations of his Togolese counterpart. He said the statement is a travesty of the truth and full of contradictions. Dr. Asamoah said the security agencies have investigated the alleged operation of the pirate radio station from Ghana and have not located it. He said while in Ghana, Mr. Olympio was not involved in the training of any commandos, as the Togolese want the international community to believe. Dr. Asamoah said Michael Okeri, whom Togo says is a member of the Ghana Civil Defense Organization, is not known to the organization. He said attempts made by the Ghana Embassy in Lome to have consular access to Michael Okeri to verify the claims by Togo have not been successful.

Dr. Asamoah deplored the tendency of Togo to blame Ghana for her local crisis. The foreign minister also said reports from Lome indicate that the crisis is being compounded by a purge of the military, a practice that looks like ethnic cleansing. He appealed to the international community to condemn the practice. Dr. Asamoah was also categorical in stating Ghana's position:

[Begin Asamoah recording] The Ghana Government takes a grave view of the persistent Togolese Government's tendency to make things seem as if the problem is one of a conflict between Togo and Ghana. (?A denial) is obviously intended not only as an attempt to divert attention from the macabre ethnic cleansing taking place, but more ominously to lay the foundation for aggression against Ghana. The threat implicit in the statement that Togo will not remain with its arms folded is viewed here with dismay. Ghana will hold the Eyadema regime responsible for the consequences of any irresponsible act in pursuit of this threat. [end recording]

Dr. Asamoah also made it clear that Ghana has no such policy of destabilizing neighboring countries nor is she contemplating political assassinations of their leaders.

Babangida's Envoy Meets Rawlings on Togo, Relations

AB0104221593 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] An envoy of the Nigerian leader, President Ibrahim Babangida, this morning delivered a special message to the president, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, at the Castle, Osu. Teye Kitcher brings you the report.

[Begin recording] Apart from discussing bilateral issues between Ghana and Nigeria, President Rawlings and Air Marshal Alfa discussed the situation in Togo and refugee problems caused by the crisis.

President Rawlings described recent events in Togo as most unfortunate. He said the issue of who rules Togo must be arrived at democratically and not through violence. President Rawlings said the rampant killing of people, as is happening in Togo, does not give Africa a good image.

He said it is sad that Ghana is being made a scapegoat by the Togolese authorities for events in that country. We want to see peace and stability prevail in the subregion, said President Rawlings. He said it has taken a lot of sacrifice to restore some order to a place like Liberia and events in Togo must not be allowed to deteriorate into a similar situation.

President Rawlings said Ghana is ready to help in finding a peaceful solution to the Togolese crisis.

The minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Obed Asamoah, stated that Ghana is not involved in the Togolese crisis as the authorities in that country would want the world to believe. In his words, the Togolese reference to Ghana is a concoction of facts to implicate the Ghana Government.

Air Marshal Alfa stressed the need for countries in the subregion to solve political problems peacefully. [end recording]

Liberia

ULIMO Allegedly Loots Health, Plantation Facilities

AB0104143693 Gbarnga Radio ELBC in English 0700 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Health Ministry in Gbarnga reports that renegade forces of ULIMO [United Liberia Movement for Democracy in Liberia] have looted all health facilities in areas invaded by force of arms with ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] assistance.

The health minister, Dr. Cole Gbokolo, said the Kakata health center, the (Kuren) Hospital in Zorzor, and the Vangelal Health Center have been completely vandalized by ULIMO and the drugs and hospital facilities taken away, leaving the principal structure open. Several citizens were also executed in Lofa and elsewhere by ULIMO. Referring to Voinjama, Dr. Gbokolo said, the health workers and doctors fled into Guinea where they have been arrested by Guinean authorities on suspicion of being spies and NPFL fighters. He, however, said the head of the MSF [Doctors Without Borders] team in greater Liberia has gone to Guinea to verify that the individuals are truly health workers in order to secure their release.

The health minister said the impact of the United Nations relief activities in Greater Liberia has been very minimal. He said UN work in greater Liberia is almost nonexistent, compared to the existing needs of the people. He noted that UN supplies and staff are inadequate for forming the Liberia staff working on the ground in greater Liberia.

The health minister said there are presently 500,000 displaced Liberians and 150,000 displaced Sierra Leonean refugees to which Greater Liberia has to cater for

[sentence as heard]. He said the 600 bags of rice given to the people of Greater Liberia by the United Nations for the first time in several months is nothing compared to the existing needs of the people. Mr. Gbokolo said it is morally wrong for Amos Sawyer to maintain that ECOMOG should inspect every bag of rice being sent to displaced people in Greater Liberia by relief organizations.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Gbokolo said it would appear that ECOMOG has singled out health facilities in Greater Liberia for systematic destruction. Mr. Gbokolo told LBS news that ECOMOG is continuing to bomb and kill health workers and patients under the pretext that health facilities are being used by the NPFL to store arms. He denied these claims and noted that this issue has been brought to the attention of the World Health Organization representative to Liberia, Dr. Ruth Shabalala, regarding the humanitarian laws of war.

In another development, facilities of the University of Liberia, (Fendel), Campus have been completely looted. Informed sources said the looting exercise is being led by Dr. Fidel Gbigbey, acting head of the Monrovia University. Essential research books which were left intact by the NPRA [National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly] government along with chairs and office equipment have been extracted from the (Fendel) Campus and taken to Monrovia. Reports also speak of armed gangs and ECOMOG looting electrical appliances and other fixture from the university, (Fendel), campus. Professor Amos Sawyer is reported to have given a [word indistinct] for the looting of the university campus.

Mercenary forces of ECOMOG assisted by ULIMO and the AFL have also looted facilities in the American Firestone Plantations Company, something which U.S. Ambassador to Liberia, William Twaddell, has condemned.

Nigeria

Vice President Heads Delegation to Frontline Summit

AB0104164093 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The vice president, Admiral Augustus Aikhomu, left Lagos today for Harare at the head of the Nigerian delegation to the summit of Frontline African States scheduled for tomorrow in the Zimbabwean capital. During the two-day meeting, the leaders of the Frontline States are expected to discuss current political developments in South Africa, peace efforts in Mozambique, and the crisis in Angola.

On the vice president's entourage are the secretary for foreign affairs, Chief Matthew Mbu, and other top government officials. The delegation is expected back home on Saturday [3 April].

Commentary Links Killing of Citizens to U.S. Relations

AB3003185093 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English 1030 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Commentary by Isola Dada: "The Killing of Another Nigerian in Washington"]

[Text] Once again, Nigerians are constrained to express concern about the fate of their countrymen living in the United States. Some of these Nigerians have stayed in America for long, earning a living and thereby contributing to the economic well-being of the United States. While as human beings, some of them may in one way or the other, run foul of the laws of their host country, a majority of them are law-abiding and are therefore entitled to the protection of U.S. security agents rather than being targets of vicious attacks, sometimes, at the hands of those who are supposed to protect them. The latest of such incidents is the killing in Washington of a Nigerian taxi driver, Adesola Adeshina, last Tuesday [23 March] by a police officer said to be off-duty at the time he shot and killed Adeshina.

Three months ago, concerned Nigerians expressed their indignation at the way in which Nigerians living in the United States were being handed down, thus bringing into question the safety of Nigerians living in U.S. towns and cities. Since then, the situation has been deteriorating rather than improving. In June last year, the body of a Nigerian lady, who had earlier been declared missing, was exhumed from the basement of an apartment in Washington. Not long after that, another Nigerian, a lawyer, was shot and killed, also in Washington. In all these cases, other Nigerians in the United States have complained bitterly about the manner of investigation and the shoddy way in which the prosecution of suspected culprits were handled.

Although these killings have occurred at the lower level of the society and cannot be said to involve the United States as a country, nevertheless, the fact remains that what affects Nigerians in the United States or Nigerians in any foreign country, for that matter, naturally affects Nigeria as a country. Consequently, such incidents are bound to have some effect on relations between the two countries. It is in light of this that the American authorities should show interest in these killings which are fast becoming a pastime for some trigger-happy Americans. This, they can do by at least, looking into the matter and ensuring prompt investigation and seeing to it that those responsible are visited with the due rate of the law. Such prompt action will show that the American authorities are concerned about wanton killing of citizens of other countries living in the United States.

The killing of Adeshina is particularly embarrassing, since it happened at a time the head of the Nigerian Transition Council, Chief Ernest Shonekan, was in Washington holding talks with American officials on ways to further strengthen existing cordial relations between Nigeria and the United States. The fact that the

incident occurred at this particular time is capable of putting a strain on good relations between the two countries. And that, precisely, is where the American authorities must take steps to stem the tide before cordial relations are jeopardized.

Togo

Deserter Alleges Army Undergoing 'Ethnic Cleansing'

AB0104160293 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Accra, April 1 (AFP)—Togo's Army has been undergoing "ethnic cleansing" since the March 25 failed attempt to kill President Gnassingbe Eyadema, according to a Togolese Army deserter who has taken refuge in Ghana.

Corporal Awondja Komi, 41, who was interviewed Monday in Aflao, on the Ghana-Togo border, said he witnessed the assassination of eight Togolese soldiers from the military camp in the capital of Lome. Togo authorities had said they suspected some members of the camp of having aided outsiders in the commando attack against the president, whose residence is inside the camp.

Komi said all the soldiers killed did not belong to the president's ethnic group, the Kabyles, who come from the northern part of the country.

Komi, who said he joined the Army in 1974, said Colonel Koffi Tepe, a member of Eyadema's staff, was not killed during the attack as authorities reported but was "clubbed to death" and "stabbed" by Togolese soldiers six hours after the incident.

He said he had seen Tepe alive after the attack and was later invited by one of the president's guards to witness his assassination but declined. He said a fellow soldier later told him how he had "stabbed the colonel twice, dipped his finger into the colonel's blood and licked it."

In addition to Tepe, authorities said four others were killed during the attack including three civilians and General Mawulikplimi Ameji. Informed military sources said the civilians killed were Tepe's three children.

Both Tepe and Ameji belong to the southern ethnic group, the Ewes.

Eyadema's government has blamed Ghana for "actively supporting" the group that tried to kill him.

According to military sources in Accra, at least 50 Togolese soldiers, including Komi, fled to Ghana after the attack.

Komi said that since the attack on the president, the Army, made up mainly of soldiers who belong to the Kabyle ethnic group, has been eliminating all those from other ethnic groups. He said that includes southern ethnic groups like the Ewes but also northern groups like the Chumrus, Bassas and Kotokolis. He said he decided

to desert after Tepe's murder and buried his Army uniform in a field before crossing into Ghana. [passage omitted]

Komi's testimony corroborates a recent Amnesty International report that said about 20 non-Kabyle military officers were recently killed in Togo.

Defense Minister Denies Charges

AB0204095593 Paris AFP in English 0128 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Lome, April 2 (AFP)—Togo on Thursday denied charges that "ethnic cleansing" within its armed forces was underway, following a failed attempt on the life of President Gnassingbe Eyadema, as a row with neighboring Ghana intensified.

"There is no manhunt going on in our country and no ethnic cleansing," Defense Minister Inoussa Bouraima told AFP. He was responding to allegations made Monday by Corporal Awondja Komi, who said from his refuge in Ghana on Monday that the Togolese army had been undergoing a form of "ethnic cleansing" since the March 25 operation against the president's official residence. He said that before fleeing he had witnessed the killing of eight soldiers at a military camp here.

Togo authorities said they suspected that some of the camp residents had aided outsiders in staging the commando attack on the presidential residence, which is located inside the camp.

Komi stressed that none of the slain soldiers belonged to the president's ethnic group, the Kabyles, who come from northern Togo.

Amnesty International on Thursday said that at least 20 soldiers had been executed in the aftermath of the raid, including deputy chief of staff Colonel Koffi Tepe. Bouraima acknowledged that after the attack there had been a number of desertions of soldiers from all groups. While most simply returned to their villages, he said, others had gone to Ghana and elsewhere. Bouraima attributed the desertions to manipulation by Togolese dissidents abroad. [passage omitted]

Koffigoh Reaffirms Uselessness of Armed Struggle

AB0204075993 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 31 Mar 93 p 19

[Second installment of interview with Prime Minister Joseph Koffigoh by FRATERNITE MATIN's Noel Yao in Lome on 24 March; first paragraph is FRATERNITE MATIN introduction]

[Text] Armed struggle will bring only sorrow, desolation, and misery to Togo. In the second part of the interview he granted to FRATERNITE MATIN and IVOIR' SOIR on 24 March in Lome, Prime Minister Joseph Kokou

Koffigoh denounced violence as a strategy. The Togolese head of government, as a true lawyer, pleads in favor of security to enable the organization of the next elections in Togo.

[Yao] One of your former friends, Gilchrist Olympio, speaks of the question of armed struggle. I would like to know your view on this issue.

[Koffigoh] You say "former" friends. As for me, I still regard them as my friends.

[Yao] But they no longer consider you as their friend. That is the problem.

[Koffigoh] You know, we are all Togolese, therefore brothers. We can quarrel, but one day, we will meet again. Coming back to the question of armed struggle, I do not know if Gilchrist Olympio believes sincerely in what he says. I do not know what an armed struggle will bring to Togo, apart from desolation, misery, and sorrow to the population. Let us be logical, then. There was an exodus of the population following a half day of serious violence in Lome.

We are working for peace and security to return so that our compatriots can return. Many of them have returned already. When a political party leader, in such a context, still dares speak to us about armed struggle, I wonder if he wants to embark on an armed struggle to increase the exodus more or if this armed struggle, as if by magic, is going to take place in the sky and spare the Togolese. Either we all support the restoration of democracy through the polls and therefore create favorable conditions for our country to find peace and serenity so that we can rapidly go to the polls. Some people only think about the conquest of power by any method and, in that case, all methods are good for them.

The Togolese can die in thousands but this will not be their problem, provided they satisfy their hunger for power. For the meantime, I have not had any personal contact with Gilchrist Olympio for several months. So you are informing me that he is favorable to armed struggle.

[Yao] Mr. Olympio told the Togolese press: "I was desirous to begin an armed struggle."

[Koffigoh] For my part, resorting to an armed struggle to settle a problem of democratization is a crazy thing. To my mind, this has never been successful in any African country. It has not been successful in Somalia, Angola, and Liberia, and I do not see how it would succeed in Togo.

[Yao] Gilchrist Olympio thinks that it is the "solution of despair." This means that a part of the Togolese opinion does not believe in the security measures you are adopting.

[Koffigoh] It is the results that will tell. I think for the time being, it is untimely to make any assessment. You know, for the moment, there is a crisis of confidence in the country following the various upheavals of our democratic movement and we have to work for the restoration of this confidence. Stances like the one you have just informed me about are not conducive to the restoration of confidence. We are not in the government to make war. We are there to find the necessary political solutions and make the people speak through the polls.

[Yao] Concerning the crisis of confidence, do you continue to hold discussions with those of your "friends" from the opposition who are still in Togo? Furthermore, would you be prepared to go to the polls without the opposition?

[Koffigoh] When you say "you," do you mean my person?

[Yao] The government in Lome.

[Koffigoh] We launched an appeal. I personally launched an appeal for dialogue. At least two persons are needed to hold dialogue. It is up to the opposition to make use of this appeal for dialogue. The opposition exists, but the population also exists. The Togolese are very much in a hurry to go to the polls.

Moreover, contrary to what you are saying, most of the opposition leaders are here in Lome. That is an idea that you should not spread abroad. Many of the members of the opposition are in Lome.

[Yao] Will you personally stand for the next presidential election?

[Koffigoh] I will not. I have said this several times.

President Eyadema Receives Babangida's Envoy

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[Text] An envoy of Nigeria's President Babangida was in Lome II on 31 March and was received in audience by the head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema. He is Mr. Ibrahim Alfa, the commander of the Nigerian Air Force.

The envoy did not make a statement after the audience, but it is believed that his visit is in connection with the current search for ways and means to bail our country out of the current political crisis.

The Togolese Foreign Affairs Minister Ouattara Fambare Natchaba and Nigeria's ambassador to Togo, Vincent Okobi, were present at the audience.

President Eyadema showed the Nigerian emissary the weapons seized from the men who attacked the Inter-arms Regiment Camp the morning of 25 March.

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